



Election

Labour in control but it's UKIP that's smiling

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Focus on

Hair today but gone tomorrow for charity

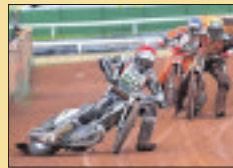
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Speedway

Maximum success for hat-trick Cradley

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Fast food change of lane 'will mean jobs'

FAST food chain McDonald's wants to change the drive through lane on its restaurant in Park Road, Halesowen.

The firm said it reduce waiting times and help to cut noise and congestion as well as create five jobs.

It also wants turn its restaurant in Dudley Road, Kingswinford, into a 24 hours a day operation.

Bosses have applied to Dudley Council to change its premises licence and extend its opening hours.

McDonald's said it will create between 10 and 15 jobs.

The applications for the restaurants and one Brickhouse Lane South, Tipton, were due to be discussed by councillors this week.

Around £300,000 will be invested in the three sites, the firm said. Around 10 positions are expected to be created at Tipton.

A McDonald's spokesman said: "The proposed side-by-side drive thru at Park Road, Halesowen represents a significant investment."

It January McDonald's was granted permission to open its branch in Bromsgrove Road, Halesowen, from 6am on a trial basis.

Residents had raised concerns about a potential increase in noise.

Five-a-side for charity

BUSINESSES in Blackheath have got in the swing of World Cup fever by preparing to hold a charity tournament testing each other's skills on the pitch.

Black Country Housing Group will put businesses near its Rowley Regis headquarters against each other in a five-a-side tournament at Goals Dudley, Cakemore Road, as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. Funds will go to Leaves n Fishes.

Kick off is 3pm next Thursday. Call 0121 561 1969 for detail.

JUDGE BACKS MOSQUE APPEAL

THE long-running bid to build a mosque in Dudley has taken a new twist after Muslim leaders won the right to a second High Court appeal.

One of the country's most senior judges claimed there could be 'political' motivations to allegedly block the scheme as he allowed Dudley Muslim Association to take its case to the Court of Appeal.

Dudley Council launched a legal bid to reclaim land, in Hall Street, which had been earmarked for the site of a new multi-million pound mosque.

The association lost its initial appeal after its defence against the move was struck out at the High Court.

But now the association has been granted the chance to mount a second appeal after Judge Sir Stephen Sedley ruled there was an 'arguable' case the council may have committed an 'abuse of power' over its dealings with the association.

The case will be heard at the Court of Appeal at a date to be confirmed later this year. If it is successful, it will then go to trial.

Defence

In February, High Court Deputy Judge David Halpern upheld the council's decision to throw out the plans. He said while the association may have been able to resist the council's claim, it had failed to serve a 'credible' defence.

But at the latest court hearing Sir Stephen disagreed, finding the association had successfully pleaded in its defence there was a so-called 'legitimate expectation' that the council would extend a deadline for the development.

He said: "The associa-

by Alex Ross

tion missed the deadline for completion of the mosque because the MBC [Dudley Council], which had set the deadline, had in practice made it untenable by a succession of steps it took in relation to planning consent."

These steps he said were both 'political' - including asking the association to abandon its planning application pending local elections in case 'political capital was made' - and 'substantive', including ultimately refusing permission against its own officer's advice and then seeking to challenge a Government inspector's decision to grant consent on the association's appeal.

The association has argued it had a 'legitimate expectation', based on a September 2006 letter from the then council chief executive Andrew Sparke that the council would set a later target date for the planning issues to be resolved.

Sir Stephen added: "There seems to me to be a two-pronged case available to the association on the pleadings and the uncontested evidence."

Council leader Councillor David Sparks said: "The council will consider the latest decision, will continue to follow the court process."

Teenager rescued after falling 40ft



Rescue teams at Saltwells Nature Reserve Picture: West Midlands Ambulance Service

A TEENAGER suffered leg and wrist injuries when he fell around 40ft down an embankment at Saltwells Nature Reserve.

Paramedics staged a dramatic rescue as they were lowered by rope to reach him on the steep slope.

Fire and ambulance crews who were called to the beauty spot at around 5.15pm on Tuesday.

The man, believed to be aged 18, tumbled a large part of the way down the near-vertical slope in the reserve between Brierley Hill and Netherton.

He hit a tree stump, which left him with a deep gouge in his thigh.

Paramedics placed the man on a stretcher before being lowered to the bottom of the slope.

Fire crews from Cradley Heath and a technical rescue team from Wednesbury fire station also attended.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Adrian Cherry said an all-terrain vehicle was brought in to take the man almost half a mile back to the ambulance. He suffered a thigh injury and a sprained wrist.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray MacGregor said the man had been with friends at the top of the embankment when he slipped.

"Although he apparently managed to keep his feet at the top, he tumbled a large part of the way down hitting a tree stump which left him with a deep gouge in his thigh," he said.

Pledge to halt industry decline

BUSINESS bosses have pledged to restore Dudley's reputation as a leader in industry.

Members of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce have said they are determined to put the town back on the map following a decline in business.

Less than 10 per cent of Black Country exports that come through the Black Country Chamber are from Dudley businesses.

The unemployment rate in the borough is 9.2 per cent compared to the national average of 7.5 per cent, according to Office of National Statistics results for May.

Vicki Wilkes, president of Dudley's Chamber of Commerce and managing director of Phoenix Calibration & Services, said: "We need to work more closely with Dudley Council and develop projects that improve business effectiveness."

At the heart of their aims is a plan to increase the borough's skilled workforce.

Martin Dudley, chairman of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce skills policy group, said: "The hamper needs to champion career planning in schools."

The group also recognised the need to encourage more people to visit the borough's attractions and spend more money while they are there.

Death-crash victim named

AN ELDERLY woman killed in a three-car smash in Waterfall Lane, Cradley Heath has been named.

Mary Woodall, 83, was travelling in a Kia Picanto which was involved in a collision last Wednesday.

An inquest on Mrs Woodall, from Rowley Regis, was opened and adjourned at Smethwick Coroners Court on Tuesday. The cause of death was recorded as fatal injuries sustained due to road traffic collision.

● Safety call - Page 4

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CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help:

Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Louise Jew: 01384 353201
louise.jew@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex-ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk
Tom Mason: 01902 319550
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Photographic
 Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

Advertising
Emma Parkes
 Tel: 01384 353234
 E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

Nicky Cope
 Tel: 01902 319753
 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution:
Paul Jones
 Tel: 01902 319990
 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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The winners and the losers in battle for votes in local and European elections

Labour in control but it's UKIP celebrating

by Alex Ross

LABOUR retained control of Dudley Council – but it was UKIP's night as the party gained seven seats and forced the Tories into third place in some wards.

Despite losing two seats, Labour widened its lead on the authority to 20 councillors.

The Conservatives won two seats, but lost a total of six, many going the way of UKIP. The party now has nine councillors, two of them who had defected from Conservatives before Thursday's election.

The most notable Conservative casualties were former deputy leader Tim Wright, Tina Westwood and Jeff Hill. Tina Westwood lost her seat to UKIP's Bill Etheridge by 203 votes, while UKIP's Dean Perks saw off Conservative Doreen Ameson in Upper Gornal.

Councillor Etheridge said: "The campaign has been wonderful, locally we have been very positive in the face of national smears and the people of Dudley know that we are passionate about the key issues that are important to them.

"We want to focus on free parking in Dudley and a full audit of the council's spending."

After being announced the winner, Mr Etheridge said: "We are in Dudley and we are going to fight every election. Tonight has shown a wave. We are the future, stick with us because we are going places."

Labour Council leader David Sparks retained his seat after a closely-run battle with UKIP's Helen Wimplett in the Quarry Bank



Bill Etheridge, the successful UKIP candidate for Sedgley, also became one of its West Midlands MEPs



UKIP's Roger Scott-Dow receives a kiss from his wife Carol after Gornal from the Conservatives

Pensive council leader, Councillor David Sparks, kept his Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood seat for Labour

Dudley mayor Alan Finch, right, who retained Castle and Priory for Labour, with ex-mayor Councillor Michael Evans

and Dudley Wood ward. He won by 104 votes.

He said: "I am extremely relieved. We will continue to focus on community services, especially improvements to parks, including the Saltwells Nature Reserve and try to ensure Quarry Bank and Dudley get a fair deal. The next two years, however, will be very difficult."

Opposition leader for the Con-

servatives, Councillor Patrick Harley, who held on to his Kingswinford South ward, admitted it had been a difficult night for the Conservatives.

He said: "I think at the next general election things will resume to normal. It is a wake up call for all the political parties to listen what people on the ground are saying."

It was not plain sailing for Labour, however. Many senior council-

lers were pushed to the line by rival UKIP councillors

Cabinet regeneration boss Judy Foster saw off UKIP's Susan Longmore in the Brockmoor and Pen-snett ward by 202 votes. Deputy leader Peter Lowe also got through on the Lye and Stourbridge ward, beating Conservative Asan Mishaq, followed by UKIP's Sarah Wilson, by 376.

A ward-by-ward look at where the electorate put their crosses

Amblecote	
Paul Bradley (UKIP)	1,093
Colin Banks (Con)*	1,022
Glenn Horton (Lab)	894
Catherine Maguire (Green)	133
Harold Hanson (Lib Dem)	87
UKIP gain	Majority 71

Belle Vale	
Ian Cooper (Lab)	1,299
Robert Healey (UKIP)	1,176
Tarsem Singh Sidhu (Con)*	843
John Payne (Green)	207
Lab gain	Majority 123

Brierley Hill	
Zafar Islam (Lab)	1,084
Raymond Franklin (UKIP)	960
Dan Jones (Con)	493
Gordon Elcock (Green)	189
Lab hold	Majority 124

Brockmoor & Pensnett	
Judy Foster (Lab)	1,162
Susan Longmore (UKIP)	960
Nicola Richards (Con)	437
Ben Sweeney (Green)	99
Lab hold	Majority 202

Castle & Priory	
Alan Finch (Lab)*	1,424
Mick Forsyth (UKIP)	1,137
David Simms (Con)	515
Lisa Fisher (Green)	124
Lab hold	Majority 287

Coseley East	
Star Etheridge (UKIP)	1,200
Sue Ridley (Lab)*	1,167
Martin Duffield (Con)	524
Ken Griffiths (BNP)	123
Adrian Crossen (Green)	95
UKIP gain	Majority 33

Cradley & Wollescote	
Tim Crumpton (Lab)*	1,480
Robert Healey (UKIP)	1,057
Steve Clark (Con)	823
Karlle Marie Owen (Green)	136
Lab hold	Majority 403

Gornal	
Roger Scott-Dow (UKIP)	1,547
Serena Craigie (Lab)	1,336
Tim Wright (Con)*	1,095
Francis Sheppard (Green)	90
UKIP gain	Majority 211

Halesowen N	
Stuart Henley (UKIP)	1,236
Jeff Hill (Con)*	1,169
Elizabeth Keenan (Lab)	1,161
Daniel Archer (Green)	152
UKIP gain	Majority 67

Halesowen S	
Nicholas Gregory (Con)*	1,770
John Marshall (UKIP)	988
Dave Austin (Lab)	896
Tim Weller (Green)	203
Con hold	Majority 782

Hayley Green & Cradley S	
Andrea Goddard (Con)*	1,256
Adrian Turner (UKIP)	1,234
Ian McGarry (Lab)	885
Colin Royle (Green)	180
Con hold	Majority 22

Kingswinford N & Wall Heath	
Natalie Neale (Con)	1,704
Mike Rumble (UKIP)	1,090
Lynne Boleyn (Lab)	1,071
Liz Jednorog (Green)	131
Con gain	Majority 614

Kingswinford	
Patrick Harley (Con)	1,561
Alan Etheridge (UKIP)	1,065
Shaz Saleem (Lab)	917
Vicky Duckworth (Green)	184
Con hold	Majority 496

Lye & Stourbridge N	
Pete Lowe (Lab)	1,365
Asan Mishaq (Con)	989
Sarah Wilson (UKIP)	986
Dennis Neville (Green)	140
Lab hold	Majority 376

Netethorn, Woodside & St Andrews	
Elaine Taylor (Lab)*	1,238
Stephen Daniels (UKIP)	1,093
Bill McCormish (Green)	893
Kamran Razzag (Con)	324

Norton	
Colin Elcock (Con)*	1,794
David Powell (UKIP)	890
Rob Clarke (Lab)	634
Christopher Brammall (Lib Dem)	367
Pam Archer (Green)	270
Con hold	Majority 904

Pendmore & Stourbridge E	
Mike Wood (Con)*	2,014
Glen Wilson (UKIP)	913
Christopher Brammall (Lib Dem)	367
Pam Archer (Green)	270
Con hold	Majority 904

Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood	
David Sparks (Lab)*	1,224
Helen Wimplett (UKIP)	1,120
Tim Wood (Con)	533
Martin Cottrell (Green)	172
Lab hold	Majority 104

Sedgley	
Bill Etheridge (UKIP)	1,536
Tina Westwood (Con)	1,333
Wayne Male (Lab)	749
Janet Sheppard (Green)	149
UKIP gain	Majority 203

St James	
Khurshid Ahmed (Lab)*	1,217

Lab hold	
Majority 348	

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The future is purple, says MEP Etheridge

THE UK Independence Party has been basking in the sunshine of success in the European Parliament elections, despite one of their three new West Midlands MEPs making umbrellas for a living.

But while UKIP enjoyed their victory with seven seats up for grabs in the region, there was nothing for the Liberal Democrats to celebrate having lost their only West Midlands seat in the Brussels parliament. Labour, meanwhile, doubled its tally of MEPs.

The Conservatives won two seats having previously held three. Former UKIP MEPs Mike Natrass and Nikki Sinclair, who both formed breakaway Eurosceptic groups, also lost their seats.

Newly-installed Dudley Councillor, Bill Etheridge, has had a double celebration after winning the votes to become a UKIP MEP.

Mr Etheridge, aged 44, had already stood as UKIP's candidate to be the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner in 2012 but came fourth behind Labour, the Tories and an independent candidate.

The victorious Mr Etheridge declared: "The future's bright, the future's purple."

And he said he would continue to serve as a local councillor, despite his new job in Brussels.

Newly elected MEP Jill Seymour, aged 56, declared that voters were 'fed up' of the 'same old rhetoric and spin' as she celebrated with supporters and her husband Brian, aged 77.

Umbrella-maker and fellow new MEP James Carver, aged 44, has been with UKIP since 1996.

Newly-elected member Neena Gill, aged 57, was an MEP for Labour from 1999 to 2009 but lost her seat in the last election. Second on Labour's list was Sion Simon, aged 45, the former Erdington MP.

Meanwhile, Tory MEP Philip Bradbourn, aged 62, has now held his seat in Brussels since 1999. Anthia McIntyre, aged 59, was not elected in the 2009 poll but got her seat after officials within the European Parliament decided the West Midlands should have another seat.

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Warning by police over online sextortion

PROFESSIONAL blackmailers are luring men and boys in the Black Country into online video sex chats and then threatening to post the footage on the internet unless their victims pay thousands of pounds into offshore bank accounts.

Details have emerged after police in the West Midlands received eight such reports in recent months, including two occasions where the offenders actually carried out their threats.

Target

These include cases in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Detectives say offenders usually target their victims by adding them as a friend on social media sites or by befriending them in internet chat rooms. They will then flirt with their victims and lure them into video conversations, during which both parties engage in sexual acts.

In the hours after the conversation ends, the offender will send a message to the victim requesting cash. They also attach a screen grab of the video as proof they have the footage and threaten to post it online if the money isn't paid.

Motorbike store move

A MOTORBIKE sales and repairs centre is planning to relocate in Halesowen.

Streetbike is based at the top of Mucklow Hill but now bosses have submitted plans for a change of use to convert the former Comet store, in Dudley Road. The premises have been empty for several years.

The building will be retained while bosses ask for permission to transform the inside for a motorbike repair and MOT testing area. Areas would be set aside for sales, parts shop, clothing and equipment, offices and a potential cafe area to create a 'social hub' for riders.

High life in Clent

COMIC (Comedy, Opera and Music in Clent) present sparkling musical High Society from tonight to Saturday at Sunfield Community Theatre, Clent. Performances at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available from James Bradbury on 01562 730381.

GP may appeal over German locum's fatal



Dr Stuart Gray – may

THE family of a father killed by a drugs overdose administered by an 'incompetent' doctor have described a decision not to extradite him to the UK as a 'green light for charlatans'.

David Gray, aged 70, died in 2008 after being given an overdose of painkillers by a German locum who was working his first shift for an out-of-hours service.

The pensioner's family wanted Dr Daniel Ubani to face trial in the UK over the death. But this has been

rejected by German authorities who prosecuted him in his home country.

The decision was upheld by the European Court of Human Rights, which ruled it had found no violation of human rights after examining the family's claim that the German investigation was flawed.

Following the ruling, Mr Gray's sons, Stuart, a GP from Blakedown, and Rory, said they are looking into whether they could lodge an appeal. Dr Gray, who works at Church

View surgery in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, said the case had got wider ramifications for the UK.

"We need to digest this and go back to our lawyers and see if we can lodge an appeal or not," he said.

His brother Rory added: "German authorities convicted him of a minor misdemeanour. This is a green light for charlatans to go to other countries and do whatever they like."

A UK coroner recorded a verdict of unlawful killing at the inquest on

Cambridgeshire grandfather-of-four Mr Gray. He described Mr Gray's death as 'gross negligence and manslaughter' and said Dr Ubani was 'incompetent'.

Dr Ubani, 67, a Nigerian-born German citizen, who had been working for SuffDoc, part of the out-of-hours GP provider 'Take Care Now', at the time of Mr Gray's death, was struck off in the UK.

He is still able to work in Germany, where he was fined the equivalent of £6,168.

A night of fundraising in memory of Christina

A MEMORIAL fundraising event is being organised for tragic Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins at the home of West Bromwich Albion on Saturday.

It has been organised by a close family friend of the 16-year-old, who was killed on a bus on her way to Leasowes High School.

All cash raised will go to

a fund set up in her memory, and to support work with youths carried out by West Midlands Police.

Organiser Phil Ashbourne, aged 38 and from Quinton, said: "I work at Tesco at Five Ways and Kathy, Christina's mum, works in the store and we have been friends for a long time."

"With it being just after the first anniversary of her death, we want to do something positive to raise awareness and funds."

The night will be hosted by TTV Central News presenter Sameena Ali-Khan, and will feature Michael Buble tribute Michael Clews and the Duelling Pianos.

There will also be an auction with prizes including a 40in television, iPad Air, iPhone and West Bromwich Albion shirts, and a raffle.

Around 120 people have bought tickets.

But Mr Ashbourne would like at least another 30 or 40 people to attend the event at the Richardson Suite at The Hawthorns.

It kicks off at 6.30pm and ends at 1am.

For tickets, which cost £45, call Mr Ashbourne on 07590 686741, or email phil.ashbourne@hotmail.com.

Christina was attacked by mentally ill Philip Simelane, who later pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility and was sentenced to an indeterminate hospital order.

Care role for thousands of children

THOUSANDS of children, some as young as five are caring for their parents in the West Midlands, new figures have revealed.

The Children's Society has published statistics which show that across the region, there are 12,527 young people who are under the age of 16 providing unpaid care.

In Sandwell 803 children are young carers while the statistics also show that 615 children in Dudley are looking after their parents, siblings and other family members.

Responsible

Figures for Wolverhampton show 594 children are carers along with 665 young people in Walsall and 936 children in Worcestershire who responsible for looking after someone at home. In Birmingham that figure jumps to 2,697 children.

The charity says it has released the figures as it wants to highlight the burdens young carers are facing across the region and the consequences on their education and childhood.

Hospital midwifery unit is reborn



Professor Cathy Warwick, from the Royal College of Midwives, officially opens the revamped maternity unit

THE midwifery unit at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley has been given a £41,000 facelift, creating a homely setting for mothers-to-be to give birth.

It was officially opened last week by Professor Cathy Warwick, Chief Executive of the Royal College of Midwives.

A Government grant was used to install subdued lighting, inspirational artwork and a variety of birthing balls, stools, mats and bean bags.

Lead midwife manager Andrea Batty said: "We also used part of

grant to buy night beds for dads, so they can also rest and will be more useful when the family goes home."

"The new items will help my team to provide the best care to mums and babies."

Simple

"It is the simple things that make the difference and we are delighted to have more tools to help provide the best birthing experience we can."

Professor Warwick congratulated

midwives in Dudley for their hard work and was delighted to reopen the unit. "The team has been able to do some fantastic improvements with the money and there are some unique features and artwork on this unit which look great," she said.

"I am sure the new facilities will be welcomed by women in the area. The Trust and the midwifery team should be applauded for demonstrating such commitment in securing this investment in their maternity services."

NEWS in brief

Active times at town museums

ACTIVITIES are on offer across Dudley to keep boredom at bay this half term. Youngsters can enjoy a range of activities with the Juniors at Museums (JAM) club including crafts and free family trails.

At all three Dudley Council museum sites children can hunt on trails, which will be available every day until Sunday at the Red House Glass Cone and until Saturday at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery. Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do

Brewery hosting June beer festival

THE Green Duck Brewery in Stourbridge is holding a summer beer festival at the brewery's Badelynge Bar at the Gainsborough Trading Estate, Rufford Road, from June 19 to 21.

There will be up to 20 real ales, including Green Duck's own brews as well as a new beer it has created with new Halesowen brewery Fixed Wheel, called Downhill Duck Stout. The festival runs from 4pm to 11pm on the Thursday and Friday, 1pm to 11pm on the Saturday.

Drive-in movie for Merry Hill

A DRIVE-IN movie night is being held at the Merry Hill Shopping centre on Friday, June 6.

The 1990 hit Pretty Woman, starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, is being shown at 7pm in the car park next to the Debenhams store.

Programmes are available in advance from the concierge desk in the lower mall. There will be free popcorn on arrival.

Litter pick on housing estate

A COMMUNITY litter pick is to take place on a Halesowen housing estate this weekend. Tanhouse Tenants and Residents Association is asking volunteers to meet at the green at Sadlers Close on Sunday at 10am. Bags, high visibility jackets, litter pickers and gloves will be provided. Children have to be accompanied by an adult.

Fun at the mall

FUNKY face painting today and arts and crafts events with Tiger tomorrow will help to round off a week of special holiday activities for children at the intu Merry Hill shopping centre.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



IN the never-ending debate about diet and health, this is one viewer's email to a BBC discussion: "I am over 60 and have drunk full-fat milk and eaten butter all my life. I weigh 10 stone and my oil pressure is normal."

□□□□□□□□

I MAY have the solution to all these thugs wandering off from open prisons. The Government should simply announce the creation of HMP UK. The entire landmass of Great Britain would become an open prison and a convict would be deemed to be at large only when he escapes to a foreign country. And then he's somebody else's problem.

□□□□□□□□

INTERESTINGLY (a word which sometimes indicates nothing of interest is to follow), during the entire Second World War, only one German prisoner-of-war made it out of HMP UK and back to Germany. Franz von Werra, a Luftwaffe pilot and persistent escaper, was shipped off to Canada where he leaped from a train, crossed a frozen river and surrendered to the authorities in the United States, which was then neutral. He was repatriated to Germany, resumed flying, crashed into the North Sea on a routine flight and was killed. Not such a great escape.

□□□□□□□□

THE housing crisis is caused by two issues. Firstly, houses are in short supply. Secondly, they are too expensive. Or so we are told. A sceptical reader in his 70s writes: "Hang on. Can anyone remember a time when houses were cheap and plentiful?"

□□□□□□□□

MORE suggestions for a collective noun to describe a gathering of colorectal surgeons. One reader suggests a rearguard. Another proposes an asset.

□□□□□□□□

THE Prince of Wales likens President Putin's behaviour over Ukraine to Adolf Hitler's takeover of eastern Europe. So which one has the German ancestry and the son who wore a swastika armband?

□□□□□□□□

A WIFE-swapping sex party allegedly held in a mansion in Kent was provided, according to the organisers, for the "sexual elite." Or, as we used to call them, adulterers.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Death smash no surprise to safety-call residents

ANGRY residents have renewed calls to introduce more traffic-calming measures on a road in Cradley Heath that was the scene of a fatal collision involving three cars.

A woman died and five others were hurt in the crash in Waterfall Lane last Wednesday. It has emerged householders have been campaigning for safety features on the road for more than a year.

By Marion Brennan

The road rises steeply from the Perry Park Road junction to Holly Road.

Some improvements have been made but others are still to be carried out.

Residents said the main problems were caused by motorists who speed and the number of lorry drivers who use the road as a short cut.

Grandmother-of-two Jackie Lloyd launched a petition in January last year after a car lost control when it clipped the kerb and ended up in her driveway 6ft from her front window.

She said the road needed traffic-calming measures because of the dangerous bend at the junction of Higgs Field Crescent, where the collision occurred, and the speeds at which some motorists drive, although there is no suggestion that speeding was involved in the latest accident.

Mrs Lloyd, 58, said: "I am so angry. Now someone has died. Nobody wanted this to happen but nobody is surprised. We are grateful

that the council has done some work, like narrowing the entrance to the road, but they still have to put up signs diverting traffic away from the lane.

"Unfortunately this road was used as a diversion when Powke Lane was being resurfaced and some motorists have used it as a short cut ever since. It's become a rat run."

Neighbour Roger Thompson, 64, a painter and decorator, was one of the first on the scene of the crash.

He agreed traffic had increased since the work but added: "It's been building up for years."

Residents have copies of the council's improvements. Mrs Lloyd said: "It's frightening to watch mothers with pushchairs take their children to Highfields Primary along this road because of the traffic."

"If something is not done soon, it will be a child that's killed next."



Resident Roger Thompson, who has been campaigning for traffic calming in the area



The scene following the three-car fatal collision on Waterfall Lane, Cradley Heath

Student bracelet boost to appeal

MORE than £150 has been raised by Halesowen College students through selling homemade bracelets for a family's charity appeal.

Health and social care students took part in the fundraiser after hearing about the appeal in memory of Libby Mae Sharratt, who was only around two weeks old when she died from a rare heart condition at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The students helped raise £156 after making bracelets which were sold for £1 each around the college to raise funds for Libby Mae's Little Angels appeal.

Her parents Charlotte and Richard Sharratt, from Bromsgrove, started the charity to raise money for neo-natal units throughout the Midlands, which help premature newborns or those in need of intensive care.

Charlotte visited the students to share her story and explain the charity mission and collected the fundraising cheque.

College lecturer Rachael Bennett said: "We are delighted to have raised so much money for such a worthy cause. All our students should be very proud of their achievements."

The Full Moon pub, in Halesowen, held a waxing day earlier this year which raised more than £1,500.



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Getting nearer for skate park

A £200,000 skate park and recreation centre in Stourbridge has taken a major step forward after a lease was signed for the property.

International cycling champion Gavin Pardoe is now ready to build Unit-3Sixty after he signed a 10-year lease on two units on Mill Race Lane, on the Stourbridge Estate.

Riders and BMX enthusiasts will soon be able to perform flips and tricks when the urban recreation centre opens in time for the summer holiday.

Over the next few weeks, the units will become a precision skate park.

As well as the world championship standard skate park, the centre will also house an intermediate level skate park, a mini balance bike course, graffiti art studio, DJ academy, urban dance area, café, any shop.

Mr Pardoe, who is now Stourbridge Fire Station's watch commander, said: "While the main focus of the centre is to provide high quality recreation space for children and young people I hope the venue will eventually be used to house jams and competitions."

High life in Clent

COMIC (Comedy, Opera and Music in Clent) present sparkling musical High Society from tonight to Saturday at Sunfield Community Theatre, Clent. Performances at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from James Bradbury on 01562 730381.

Morning-after crash driver was above the drink limit

A DRINK driver from Halesowen has been banned from the roads for 15 months and ordered to pay more than £600 in fines and court costs after losing control of her vehicle and crashing into a garden fence in the town when driving to work in the morning.

Alice Piggott thought she had sobered up before getting behind the wheel of her Vauxhall Corsa, Dudley Magistrates' Court heard. But tests showed Piggott, whose car rolled three times and damaged six fence panels in Narrow Lane, was over the drink-drive limit.

Science pupils hospital look

ASPIRING scientists have been shown behind the scenes at Sandwell's hospitals to get a taster of a career in healthcare.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell, City and Rowley Regis hospitals, opened its doors to around 40 students.

The pupils, aged 14 to 17 and from local schools, embarked on the taster day to learn about life sciences, physiology sciences and physical sciences and engineering. Jilly Crossdale, associate director of healthcare science, said: "I wanted to give students in our local schools the opportunity to find out more about all the different career options available to them in our hospital."

"With the taster day we hope to provide awareness of science careers in a hospital setting."

The day began with interactive stands from various departments across the healthcare sciences spectrum.

Anyone interested in a career in healthcare sciences can find further information at www.swbh.nhs.uk/work-for-us/careers-at-swbh/scientific/

Piggott, aged 27, of Nimmings Road, Halesowen, pleaded guilty to drink driving and driving without a full licence following the crash on March 28 at about 6.30am.

As well the driving ban, she was ordered to pay £535 in fines, £85 court costs and £40 victim surcharge.

Following the hearing, the owner of the fence, Donna Agnew, 44, said a stricter punishment should have been given.

Mrs Agnew, who has two children aged nine and 11, was in bed when she heard the car crash outside her home on the corner of Narrow Lane and Firth Park Crescent. She said: "It was a really loud noise, I thought the lady had crashed into the house, it was a real shock to wake up to. By the time I got up a couple had helped her out of the car."

"I don't think it is (the sentence) enough. She could have killed someone. An hour later and children would have been walking up the hill to school."

Miss Maxine McIntosh, prosecuting, said a nearby on-patrol police officer was alerted to the crash. Piggott was taken to Brierley Hill police station where a blood test showed she had 131 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. The limit is 80.

Miss Nicole Steers, defending Piggott, said her client was a mother of one and in employment. She said: "She (Piggott) tells me she had been drinking in the evening before. She thought by that time in the morning, she had sobered up."



Donna Agnew with part of her fence that was knocked down by drink-driver Alice Piggott

NEWS in brief

College receives national award

COLLEGE leaders have been recognised for their role in promoting equality and diversity among their students in a national awards scheme.

Halesowen College has become only the second further education college in the country to achieve the Leader in Diversity accolade by training provider the National Centre for Diversity.

Fiona Spence from the centre has worked with the college for the past 18 months talking to a wide range of staff and students.

Roads will be closed for parade

TWO main roads are set to be closed for a special parade. The 2014 Women Chainmakers Festival parade will be taking place on Saturday, June 7, in Cradley Heath.

Between 10.30am and 1pm Plant Street and High Street in the town will be closed to help facilitate the event. Drivers wanting to travel via High Street will be diverted along Foxoak Street.

Gold chance for firms to get cash

A GRANT scheme to help support businesses is now open for small and medium sized businesses to apply.

The Black Country GOLD allows local businesses to apply for grants up to £16,000 from the European Regional Development Fund. Contact Jagtar Singh on 01902 551997.

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IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

JOOLS Holland speaking ahead of his visit to Wolverhampton: "To me there is no such thing as bad music. There is just music which you haven't really got into yet." Hmm. There speaks a man who has never heard Foster & Allen singing Rock Around The Clock.

THE Education Secretary has reportedly caused a storm by calling for American novel of Mice And Men to be dropped from the GCSE syllabus. According to the Department for Education, Michael Gove wants to see more emphasis on British classics. NOW I know very little about English literature, but remember reading Of Mice and Men And Men at school. And insofar as any work of fiction has ever touched me, I did find it mildly moving. So to dismiss it as unworthy simply because it comes from another country seems a touch narrow-minded. However, when we read that book at school, we were 13 and 14 years old. It was part of our third-form studies, not our O-Levels. Another example of dumbing down in our exam system?

TAXI drivers in Russia have come up with a novel way of dealing with passengers who don't pay their fares. Cabbies in the city of Nizhny Novgorod have taken to tearing off the clothes of fare dodgers, and then dousing them in blue paint. Which I imagine is quite a scary sight for revellers just pouring out of the clubs, who suddenly find themselves being confronted by a group of angry, naked smurfs. Still, I think this idea has got potential, and deserves a trial in this country. Now about those drivers who ignore the one-way system at Tesco...

OURS weren't the only elections last week, by the way. WHILE we have endured endless coverage of Messrs Farage, Cameron, Miliband and Clegg, the people of the Ukraine have also been to the polls. And while we have elected a bunch of Euro MPs who will spend the next five years debating the merits or otherwise of wonky bananas, the Ukrainians have elected the owner of a chocolate factory. Now, of course, few people in Britain would want to swap their lives for those in war-torn Ukraine, but you have to say they have got the better deal this time. They get Willy Wonka. We get the Oompa Loompas.

LONELINESS among the over-65s could be tackled by training more older people to use the internet, a think tank has suggested. WHAT, like all those bubbly, outgoing teenagers who spend their lives in darkened bedrooms tapping away at computer screens?



Derek, right, during his time in Egypt



Proud soldier – Derek served in the Royal Engineers



Derek and friends enjoy the sun in his younger days

Derek defiant over dementia

Army veteran has been suffering for the past three year but remains positive, as **TIM SPIERS** found out

DEREK Bishop has lived with a condition that affects 800,000 people in the UK – and changes the lives of millions more.

Figures show that one in three people who die over the age of 65 have dementia.

But army veteran Derek sees the condition a bit differently, keeping a positive attitude in the face of what can often be something very debilitating. Dementia can have a devastating impact and lead to memory loss, confusion, mood changes and difficulty with day-to-day tasks.

But the 81-year-old, who has lived with the condition for years says he just tries to take it all 'in his stride'.

"I look at people with dementia and I feel sorry for them," he says.

He was first diagnosed with dementia three years ago but still lives independently with his wife Sandra, still gets himself dressed every day and still goes shopping.

The Wombourne pensioner was told that his dementia began after he suffered a stroke. He saw a number of doctors and specialists and went through various tests before he was diagnosed.

"I was not worried, I felt fine," he said. "I feel happy that I can still do the jobs that I can do. But this morning I was rushing to get the paper so I got the wrong one."

The former lorry driver, who served in the Royal Engineers in Egypt in the 1950s, said his dementia does not affect him much.

Sandra, 78, said getting support is essential, though.

The couple think they have been married around 60 years, although neither



Derek Bishop with Debbie Wilkinson, field care manager with Carewatch

could remember the exact date. Sandra, who herself suffers with other health problems which affect her mobility, said: "It is a full time job. We have help from the support workers and it is vital."

"When Derek went to the doctors he told them he thought he was getting forgetful, but he hadn't said anything to me. I was surprised when he was diagnosed."

Despite his condition Derek still talks about trips to Australia and recalls phone calls with friends, visits out there and how he used to love gardening and

growing vegetables. His mobility means he cannot work in the garden any more, but he is by no means housebound.

"I didn't do much before but now I go to the day centre three times a week," he said. We do things like play cards, watch television and listen to music.

"Sometimes we go on day trips when the bus picks me up and we go to the pub for meals, we don't drink though."

"I have got lots of friends there."

His wife added: "He's got a better social life than me, he's well liked."

"Since he's had dementia he's had

more of a social life than ever before." The couple have three children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

They have a great deal of help from their children, while support workers from Carewatch in Shropshire visit every day to assist him.

Debbie Wilkinson is field care manager at Carewatch and said Derek and Sandra were a wonderful couple.

"They work as a team," she added.

"Derek knows he has dementia but it can progress to a point that he will not remember. He thinks it does not affect him all that much but Sandra and the carers will tell you that it affects him more than he thinks."

"Despite this he still lives a full and happy life. He goes to the local shop for some milk or bread and I know that the staff there know him and where he lives so that if he gets confused they can walk him back home or provide suitable assistance."

Staff from Carewatch, based at Stafford Park in Telford, have been visiting the couple for more than a month.

Derek's story was highlighted to coincide with Dementia Awareness Week.

The Alzheimer's Society chose 'opening up' as the theme for this year's campaign. Miss Wilkinson added: "Dementia can be a scary thing but Derek is the perfect example of how you can live well with dementia."

"This example should show people who may be feeling ashamed or confused that seeking help can be a positive step and open the door to a fulfilled life while living with the illness."

Dementia describes different brain disorders that trigger a loss of brain function. Alzheimer's disease is the most common, affecting 62 per cent of those diagnosed. But there are more than 100 types, with vascular dementia is the second most common. It is caused by problems in the supply of blood to the brain.

Symptoms include problems with speed of thinking, concentration and

POLITICS

WITH
DANIEL
WAINWRIGHT



IT'S about time councils scrapped this system of electing a third of its members three years out of four.

When control of councils are on such a knife-edge as Walsall was, and indeed still is, it does nothing to provide stable or long-term plans.

County councils went to the polls last year and everyone went up for election at the same time. They now know what they have to deal with for the next four years. A year on from those elections, those councillors are currently immune from the ups and downs of politics.

Whether UKIP's successes in the metropolitan boroughs of the Black Country was a blip, a protest or the start of something new and different in politics, it won't make a difference in Staffordshire's County Hall.

Contrast that with somewhere like Walsall, where a coalition of Tories and Lib Dems were clinging on by a thread until Thursday and had only set out cuts for the next year, rather than the coming five as has happened in Wolverhampton where Labour had too many councillors to shift.

Being stuck in a coalition is no political party's idea of a good way to run local government but knowing that, for better or worse, it has to last a long time at least forces everyone to knuckle down and get on with it.

As it stands, Walsall has to go through all this again next year. Labour will try to make friends with some independents. The Tories will try to find common ground with UKIP.

Was it the leaders who were the biggest liabilities on polling day? Whether it was Ed Miliband's messy attempt to eat a bacon sandwich, David Cameron ringing for a chat or Nick Clegg in a Birmingham cash-and-carry they have gone to great lengths to appear in touch.

The attempt generally fails thanks to the stage-managed public appearances and army of aides and advisers who guide them about.

Nick Clegg said three times in Brum that leaving the EU would be 'economic self-harm', as though he were crow-barring in prepared sound bites to any question where it might just about work. Ed Miliband got a standing ovation in Walsall, twice – but that's easy when the only people invited to the meeting are people already on the Labour mailing list.

And David Cameron ringing the Express & Star himself, rather than having an aide do it then pass him the phone, was so perfectly 'normal' it had to have been pre-planned. Nigel Farage, meanwhile, is not remotely normal – for a politician. He's a wealthy, public-school educated former banker but smokes and knocks back the pints. The mainstream party leaders should start not trying abnormally hard to be normal.

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Looking back on life blessed with beauty

AS I look forward to my 80th birthday, I look back on a life where nothing gave me more pleasure than that of seeing a beautiful woman or listening to the sound of music, I believe I must have been blessed to have had a life-time filled with both.

I have a sister Marie who was the most beautiful young lady in the neighbourhood and after 57 years of marriage my beautiful lady wife Kathleen and I are still living the good life with a twin son and daughter and two grandsons, making sure we do.

Kathleen as a young lady became an

accomplished musician as her father with both of them playing the violin.

Singing was in my blood thanks to my grandparents, my grandmother having the most beautiful soprano voice. A leading London impresario wanted to take her to America assuring her she would be a sensation. It wasn't to be she met my grandfather who sang in the local church choir, they fell in love, got married and reared nine children - three sons and six daughters my father being the eldest son.

As a young lad I joined the Brockmoor Church Choir till my voice broke

at the age of 15. For almost 40 years I have been a member of my local male voice choir the Gentlemen Songsters.

I owe the choir so much. The highlight of my years with it has to be being invited to the opening of the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, in the presence of the Queen. Before the concert the Duke of Edinburgh said hello to the choir. He asked me if we were Welsh to which I answered no we weren't, we are from the Black Country and proud of it, as no doubt the Gentleman Songsters always will be.

J Grainger, Stourbridge

Shut down town, don't mourn it

THE only option is to shut down Dudley town centre entirely.

The closure of WH Smith is the latest depressing confirmation that the game is up for the high street. Be-atties closing was one thing but if the high street cannot even support WH Smith's then things are desperate.

Why not use the public space creatively? Let's demolish the ugly market and create a grassed public park spanning Stafford Street to Castle Hill. A spruced up Duncan Edwards statue could be pride of place.

Instead of pound shops, payday loan brokers and betting shops we could convert the buildings into affordable flats and housing. Sunday farmers' markets have worked elsewhere - why not in Dudley?

It's time our town planners and councillors accepted they're fighting a losing battle. Dudley is dying. But don't mourn, organise!

J BENNETT
Dudley

LETTERS

to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Try your hand at flat green bowling

AS in many industrial areas, thousands of people in the West Midlands enjoy playing crown green bowls, but flat green bowls is usually played in the more rural areas such as Shropshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

With Dudley being close to these areas this is one "flat green" in the borough.

It is next to the tennis courts in Stevens Park, Wollescote, where about 120 people play flat green bowls on the afternoons and evening during the summer months.

The Black Country Bowls Club is one of the two clubs that share this green and is having an open day on Sunday, June 8 from 10.30am to 5pm.

We welcome the young or old, complete families, anyone who would like to try this type of bowls, with coaches to help, and, who knows, it could be the start of playing matches at beautiful places such as Pershore, Malvern, Lillleshall or Worcester.

We have all that you need to practise with, but we ask that you wear flat soled shoes on the green (trainers would suffice for a one off).

For more information, please contact club secretary Brian Simmond, of his wife, Julia, on 01384 831019

WILLIAM REX,
Black Country Bowls Club president

Centres could help ease A&E

THERE has been a lot of coverage in the newspapers about threats to close the walk-in centres, especially the one in Holly Hall, which has received around 50,000 patients over the last 12 months.

Fortunately, this centre has had a 12-month reprieve, so I understand.

One of the suggestions was to put it in the A&E at Russells Hall hospital. People were against this idea, but I think the Government needs to look at this more closely. We read frequently that A&Es are overloaded, and that people are going to the A&E with minor problems.

What about if all hospitals with A&Es had a walk-in centre alongside? There could be a qualified nurse to separate emergency cases from ones which could be directed to the walk-in centre. This, in my opinion, would take the pressure off A&E departments.

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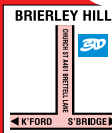
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Seaside fun during dementia week



Seaside for, from left, Dave Cooper, staff, Margaret Rides, Yvonne Wilkes and Colin Busby

PEOPLE with dementia and their carers enjoyed a seaside themed fun day as part of an activity week.

As part of National Dementia Awareness Week Dudley Council's dementia gateways hosted a range of events at both the centres and in the community last week. Events have included tea dances, sing-along's, a memory day and pamper sessions.

All of the events have been aimed at raising people's awareness of dementia, helping those with the condition

and educating people to become less fearful and more accepting.

The council's Crystal Gateway, Brierley Hill, held a seaside themed fun day for people who attend the gateway, their families and carers. Staff said great fun was had by all watching Punch and Judy and playing games from days gone by such as roll-a-ball, roll-a-penny, hook a duck, plus enjoying lollies and ice creams.

Andrea Pope-Smith, director for adult services said: "The retro seaside

fun day has been just one of the activities on offer this week at Dudley's dementia gateways. It proved a great success as people with dementia can often relate better to events and activities that have taken place in the past.

"We have invited residents into the gateways this week to get involved with the events on offer and to find out more about the signs, symptoms and treatment of this condition which will affect one in three of us, once over the age of 65."



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But that's Mona and Ron Mason's gloriously happy 70-year marriage all over. Their daughter says they're the best mother and father in the world.



The wedding day

third telegram from the Queen.

They met as teenagers during the Second World War at Sedgley's Cinema, which was nicknamed the Blood Tub, and soon began courting.

Mona, aged 87 said: "I had gone to the cinema with my friend and Ron was sitting at the back with his friend and we were a couple of rows in front."

"He asked if he and his friend could come sit with us and we really got on well. From then on whenever he saw me he would follow me and we began courting."

Three years later they tied the knot at Sedgley Catholic Church on May 27, 1944. Ron, 89, said: "It was a really lovely day and we had a big party afterwards, but things were difficult during the war."

They moved in to Mona's mother's home and their first child Peter, 70, was born. The grandmother of six, said: "At the time I was washing and



Ron and Monica celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Tuesday

cooking for eight people and my mum, who was widowed, had been working for a long time at a brickyard.

"We were offered a home behind hers, but we gave it to my brother Don and his new wife." The couple eventually moved to a house in Stickley Lane, which became their home for 40 years.

Ron was miner at the Baggeridge pit and Mona worked at Scrim Manufacturing producing bandages for the war effort before eventually moving on to Rounds Bakery, where she spent 31 years. She said: "Every day you could hear the miners going off to work and

when Ron came back he would be absolutely black and we only had a small bath to wash him in. I used to have to scrub his back to get the coal dust off."

The couple, who live in Chiltern Close, also have a daughter, Pat, 63, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Pat said: "They are the best mum and dad anyone could wish for. They would do anything for their family and they are the most caring people I know."

Ron said: "I think the secret to our long and happy marriage is that we do everything together."

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Roger Jones, back row middle, and members of the 1957 Comprehensive boys football team



Roger Jones with a picture featuring himself



A reunion of former Tividale school pupils at Tividale Football Club in Birch Crescent



Ivan Thompson and Tom Jones with the 1959 team photo



Ivan Thompson (front 2nd right) and Tom Jones (back middle) with the Methodist football team in 1959

School friends revel in memories of past

MEMORIES of what life was like in the classroom have been fondly shared during a reunion of old friends reminiscing about bygone days.

A group of around 50 former schoolmates met at Tividale FC's ground, in Packwood Road, for their annual reunion - which is now in its sixth year.

The event was a chance for old friends from the town's schools to meet up and share their memories about lessons and school sports teams. And this year's gathering saw some people meet up for the first time in half a century. The reunion is the brainchild of Wendy Squires, nee Wall, who went to Tividale Primary School from 1946 before moving abroad at the age of 13.

The 73-year-old, who now lives near Worcester, said: "When I came back I managed to get in contact with six of my old friends and we met up and decided to put on a reunion."

"We were shocked when in the first year more than 50 people turned out.

MEMORY LANE by Tom Mason

Every year since we have just as many people return - some new faces among them."

And she added that love had even blossomed for some of the attendees: "Everyone loves coming to the events and it's lovely to catch up on what people have done in their lives and what they are up to now."

"We have even had a romance between some of the people who met at one of the reunions," she added.

Emotional

Among those who attended was Roger Jones and his wife Doreen, both 69, from Wellington in Shropshire.

It was an emotional meeting with old friends for the couple, as well as a special visit to the club founded by Roger's father, Ted Jones, who also founded Tividale Youth Club where many of his friends went.

He said: "This is the first time I

have been back to the club in quite a while. My dad was well-known locally and it is nice to meet people who knew him and who were involved with the youth club."

"Most of us were born in the post war baby boom and it was a great time to be growing up. We had a lovely time living here and going to the local school - me and my wife even met at the school."

It was the first time that the couple had been to the reunion.

His Wife Doreen added: "I have not smiled so much in a long time."

Among those who go along to the gatherings are former students from five schools in the area. They are: Tividale Secondary Modern, Tividale Junior, Tividale Comp, Regent Road School and City Road School.

As well as meeting old friends, a raffle was held during the event. The former classmates also got together for a Christmas lunch. Val Bailey, aged 72, was among those who attended the reunion and also organises the festive get together. Anyone wishing to attend this year's Christmas lunch is asked to call Val on 01902 677288.



Doreen Jones, Irene Arrowsmith and Hazel Simms



Doreen, front left, Irene, back second left, and Hazel, front second right, with the 1958 Tividale Comp netball team

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Long police operation led to burglars' jailing

Art centre taking shape



The art block currently under construction at King Edward VI College WORK on a £2.9 million art centre which will bring scores of students under one roof is forging ahead.

Contractors have begun brickwork at the complex for King Edward VI College, Stourbridge.

The complex, which fronts Coventry Street and Duke Street, will be completed this year.

It will bring the college's IT,

graphics, dance and drama departments under one roof.

The work is the second phase of a redevelopment programme at the college and follows the construction of a £1.3 million maths centre, which opened in September.

A steel frame has been in place at the site since the start of the year, with brickwork now under way.

THEY were linked to scores of robberies across the Midlands and were caught after some of their haul was advertised for sale over the internet.

But now the two men are behind bars for their part in a string of break-ins in Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire.

They were caught following a long police operation which saw detectives trawl through phone data and traffic cameras.

It is also included contacting Canadian authorities to find information about the websites used by Mark Toogood, of Stourbridge Road, Dudley.

He was jailed for nine years and Matthew Clinton Brookes, of Field Road, Princes End, Tipton, was jailed for seven and a half years. The 28-year-olds had admitted conspiracy to burgle addresses in the three counties.

De Dave Loudon, of West Mercia Police, said the investigation was launched when Toogood was arrested for three separate burglaries last June.

He was selling property from burglaries on free websites, and detectives analysed his phones and used data from Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras to link him to about 38 burglaries committed across the Midlands over the previous year.

Through Toogood police were able to trace Brooks, and he could be linked to about 20 of the burglaries.

De Loudon said: "This was a very complex and in-depth case involving West Mercia and various other police forces."

"As the websites Toogood used were registered in Canada, it became an international inquiry, and we had to seek the permission of the authorities over there to access information about how he had used the internet to advertise and offload the stolen goods."

In December, Toogood was given a 32-month sentence for three burglaries for which he was arrested in June.

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Deep into the past, deeper in trouble

Book reviews

Non-Fiction
STAFFORDSHIRE writer Charlotte Higgins gives a fascinating view of Roman Britain and what it means for our sense of Britishness with her engaging account of a trek around the UK in an unreliable camper van.

In *Under Another Sky: Journeys in Roman Britain* (Vintage, £9.99, paperback, ebook) the Oxford classicist doesn't try to describe life in Britain 2,000 years ago, which she sees as an impossible task. Instead she examines the influence of this country's Roman remains on architects and archaeologists, poets and composers. For example, her visit to Wroxeter (Viriconium Cornoviorum) in Shropshire leads to musings over its effect on the young Wilfred Owen and celebrated archaeologist Sir Mortimer Wheeler who helped excavate the site as a student.

By digging deep (pardon the pun) into the Roman era, she reveals how certain myths were encouraged, such as the elevation of the vengeful Boudica to national icon by the Victorians.

Roman remains in Britain are less impressive than in Mediterranean countries but the Romans have left an enduring legacy that goes far beyond half-buried masonry.

'Alternative comedy' in Britain, which is now the comedy mainstream, did not start with Monty Python, it all began with Pete and Dud.

The ill-matched pair Peter Cook (tall, public school, posh) and Dudley Moore (short, Grammar school, from Hackney) are effectively described by biographer William Cook (no relation) as the Lennon and McCartney of comedy. Each were highly talented but did their best work together.

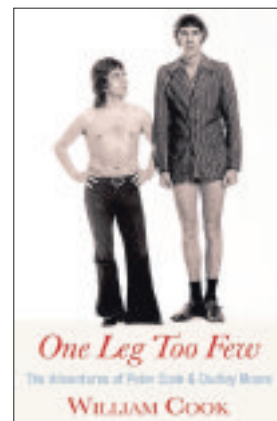


A cop faces a race against time under the streets of London

His in-depth joint biog, *One Leg Too Few: The Adventures of Peter Cook and Dudley Moore* (Arrow Books, £9.99, paperback, ebook), is essential for anyone who wants to find out more about the comedy partnership that created the satire boom of the 1960s.

Fiction
Cynical CID detective Nick Belsey literally lands himself deep in trouble when his discovery of a stash of booze and drugs in a former nuclear shelter leads to a battle of wits with a kidnapper in *Deep Shelter* (Jonathan Cape, £12.99, hardback, ebook).

This is the second novel by Oliver Harris featuring the flawed Hampstead policeman first encountered in *The Hollow Man*. A dalliance with a young woman leads Belsey into a labyrinth



Pete and Dud — the Lennon and McCartney of comedy

under London's streets as he faces a race to save her without implicating himself, thereby encountering powerful shadowy forces. This is a fast-paced thriller and I expect we will see the resourceful corrupt cop on screen soon.

Fears of a killer flu pandemic combine with myths that the Russian Tsar's daughter Anastasia survived her family's murder by the Bolsheviks in Robert Masello's effective page-turner *The Romanov Cross* (Vintage, £6.99, paperback, ebook). When melting ice uncovers bodies on an island off Alaska, there are fears the corpses could harbour the deadly Spanish Flu. The site also has links to the Russian Revolution and the notorious Rasputin. If you like Dan Brown type thrillers, this is an easy exciting beach read. **LB**

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Marathon man Dave takes on charity cycle challenge

HE is no stranger to epic challenges in tough climates – but there is nothing like being drenched during a charity cycle ride to test the mettle of a well known charity campaigner.

‘Blind’ Dave Heeley swapped his running shoes for a bike helmet as he joined others on a 100km cycle ride setting off from the home of his beloved Baggies.

The charity fundraiser from West Bromwich, famed for running seven marathons in seven days in seven continents, took part in the Wheels for Change event last weekend.

Around 16 riders, including Dave’s cycling co-partner Steve Dugmore, aka Duggie, lined up at The Hawthorns for the ride organised in aid of children’s charity UNICEF.

But the weather took a turn for the worst on Saturday morning as they were preparing to roll out past

the Astle Gates and they were forced to don rain jackets for the ride.

And less than a mile in one of the group suffered a puncture.

The route took the riders through the Black Country past Langley Green, Rowley Village and Dudley. They rode out to Trysull, Halfpenny Green, Bobbington Wolverley and on past Churchill, up St Kenelm’s Pass, round to Hunnington through Romsley and back to The Hawthorns.

Dave, of Oak Road, said: “The weather wasn’t the best but there was great camaraderie between everyone,” said.

“It was the first time the event had run but overall it went really well. Hopefully it continues and gets bigger next year.”

The final total raised will be received in the coming days.



Cyclists taking part in the fundraising 100km ride, including, front, Steve Dugmore and ‘Blind’ Dave Heeley

Campaigners need old theatre pictures

CAMPAIGNERS want to delve into the history of Dudley Hippodrome as efforts to save it are stepped up.

A host of ideas are being explored to help raise the profile of the former theatre and save it from demolition. Cash generated through fundraisers and donations is vital to helping campaigners achieve charitable status and thereby access multi-million pound grant schemes.

Among the ideas planned is to hold an exhibition highlight the history of the once popular attraction on Castle Hill. Laurel and Hardy, Judy Garland, Bob Monkhouse and Morecambe and Wise are among the stars to have graced the Hippodrome stage. Campaigners are launching an appeal to find photographs showing these famous faces and marking those memorable shows.

Pictures taken inside the art-deco style auditorium are of particular interest to the group, especially colour images. Campaigners want to have an even better idea of what the theatre was like when it was attracting top acts. Anyone with old photographs are urged to get in touch through Facebook page by searching for Save Dudley Hippodrome.

Child porn pervert is spared jail to get help

A PERVERT posed as a child in internet chat rooms to get in touch with paedophiles, a judge was told. Stuart Webb was not trying to contact young people and had no sexual interest in them.

The 44-year-old wanted to get in touch with adults who believed they were conversing with a child, explained Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

by John Scott

This put him in contact with very experienced paedophiles, the court was told.

He was traced when the Metropolitan Police swooped on a house in Orpington, Kent, in October 2012 and found a computer that contained three obscene child porn images sent by Webb.

Traced

These were traced to the house in Church Road, Wordsley, that the defendant shared with his partner.

He was arrested in a raid on February 6 last year during which more obscene images were found on a computer.

“He admitted to being addicted to pretending to be a child and talking to men and women he believed had a sexual interest in children,” said Mr Rees.

“Using the images as bait, he conversed with individuals pretending to be a child.”

Miss Samantha Powis, defending, said: “He was going through a difficult time in his life and found it easier to

pretend to be other people.

“He has already paid a high price for this having lost his partner, house and job. He needs help rather than further punishment.”

Webb, now unemployed and living at a hostel in Birmingham, admitted making 39 indecent photographs between January 25 2012 and February 7 2013 and distributing three indecent images of children on September 13, 2012.

He was given a community order under supervision for three years on condition he completes the sex offender group programme and does 120 hours unpaid work.

He will also be on the Sex Offenders Register for five years and be made the subject of a Sexual Offences Prevention Order for a similar period.

Judge Michael Challinor explained: “The public can be best protected from you by you being forced to face up to what you have done on this demanding three-year course.”

Forensics sock it to serial burglar

A SERIAL burglar has been given a four year prison sentence. Police tracked him down after he left a sock at the scene of an Oldbury break-in.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told Wayne Porter forced open a glass panel to get into the house in Florence Road before making off with a £5,000 haul including a £2,500 watch of ‘great sentimental value’.

The court heard last week drug addict Porter, 29, of Hagley Road, Birmingham, had used the sock to cover his hands during his search. Police were able to use DNA on the sock to identify him.

He broke into houses in The Broadway, Dudley, where he took a TV worth £250 and raided a property in Marine Close, Wordsley, and taking jewellery, a bag and a coat. He broke into a house in Portman Road, Kings Heath, where he stole a number of First World War medals.

He pleaded guilty to four counts of burglary, all committed within days of release from jail. Miss Geraldine Toal, defending, said Porter had carried out the crimes to fuel his drug addiction.

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Investigation is launched after passport blunder

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched by the Home Office after a London teenager's passport was returned to an address in Cradley Heath.

The passport of a 17-year-old girl from Sidcup, south east London, was mistakenly sent to a home in the Black Country after a mix-up following a renewal application.

Report by Alex Ross

The passport, which had its corners cut off and contained the personal details of the girl as well as names and addresses of her next of kin, was addressed and posted to 27-year-old Dale Grinsell. That was after Mr Grinsell had applied to the Home Office to renew his expired passport.

His application went through without a hitch and he received his old passport back from the Passport Office, but several weeks later the second passport dropped through the letter box.

He said: "On opening the letter we couldn't believe it. Staring back at us from the photo page was a young girl with long, curly red hair — certainly not me. I was shocked, to have someone else's passport in your hands without their knowledge is quite a scary thing."

"Luckily we are a law-abiding family, but who knows what could have happened if this had fallen into the wrong hands?"

"You certainly do not expect this from a Government department, and it does make you wonder whether anything of yours has been sent to the wrong place, or ended up in the wrong hands."

The passport has now been returned to its rightful owner.

Mr Grinsell added: "It's surprising that they could make such a mistake with such a sensitive piece of identification."

The Home Office has made it clear that they are not taking the incident lightly and has launched an investigation after being contacted by The Chronicle's sister newspaper Express & Star.

A spokesman for Her Majesty's Passport Office said: "We take the security of the passport and the safety of the passport holder's personal information extremely seriously"



Adam Ingram from Xtreme Cutz in Cradley Heath gets to work on his brother Joe

Hair today but gone tomorrow

HE said no to the fro after hundreds backed his bid for a close shave for charity.

Joe Ingram, aged 24, co-owns Xtreme Cutz barbers in Cradley Heath High Street with his 32-year-old brother Adam. His beloved beard and afro was growing wildly when Adam posted a picture on the outlet's Facebook page.

The challenge was set for both beard and hair to be shaved if they could get 500 'likes' for the picture. Within just two hours they had beaten the target by hundreds.

Pledges have now brought in more than £200. Fundraising will not stop there as they collected up the hair into a bag to task people how much the bag weighs at £1 a guess with a free haircut prizes.

Cash from this latest challenge will be split between the Royal British Legion and Cancer Research UK.

Body found in car is identified

AN inquest has been opened and adjourned into a man found dead in a burned out car in Cradley Heath.

Mark William Palmer, of no fixed address, was discovered by fire crews after they put out the blaze on May 10.

Smethwick Coroners Court was told last week that emergency services had been called to Lower High Street.

Coroner investigator Margaret Collins said once the flames had been put out firefighters became aware of the occupant.

The inquest was told Dudley-born Mr Palmer, 54, had been identified via statements and photographs. Mrs Collins said Mr Palmer's family had been informed. Assistant deputy Black Country coroner Angus Smillie said: "I am satisfied this is the body of Mark William Palmer." He adjourned the inquest for further information to be gathered.

Brokers back charity fund

CLASSIC car insurance brokers Footman James has been raising funds in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. The £432.31 raised by the Cradley Heath firm has been added to funds from a car show in aid of the charity held in Kidderminster last month by Ian Macaulay, founder of The New Unnamed Classic Car Group.

Independent Family Funeral Directors

Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd, formally known as J.E.W. Hickton & Sons are a long established Funeral Directors based in Cradley Heath.

In 1909 Joe Hickton a well known carpenter, builder, undertaker, local counsellor and one time Mayor of Rowley Regis, opened a dedicated funeral home located in Lower High Street, Cradley Heath in the Black Country. His son William 'Bill' Hickton came in to the business in 1937 and the father and son partnership began carrying out funerals across Cradley Heath and the surrounding areas. Bill's son Trevor came in to the business in 1971 working closely with his father to continue building the company reputation. In 2005 the company was registered as a Limited UK company along with a name change to what it is today, Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd Funeral Directors.

Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2007 and is now working closely with his father in the day to day running of the business and conducting of the funerals in the long established family business still located in Lower High Street. In late 2008 Trevor and Ross took over the running of R. Hadley Funeral Services in Halesowen. Carrying on the established business to the same standard and code of practice that of T. E. W. Hickton & T Hadley & Co. Trevor's other son Greg joined the business in 2010.

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FBI led swoops in Black Country

THREE people have been arrested in the Midlands, including one in Halesowen, as part of an international operation coordinated by the FBI.

The men, aged 19, 20 and 23, were arrested in Halesowen, Erdington and Newcastle-under-Lyme on suspicion of unlawful use of a remote access tool called 'Blackshades'.

The operation targeted software which can remotely control computers and webcams. The 'malware' is said to have infected more than 500,000 computers. Investigators believe around 200,000 usernames and passwords of victims across the world may have been extracted by Blackshades users in the UK.

Three men arrested from the Midlands have been released on police bail.

Cafe aiming to be at heart of community



Cafe owners Denise and Brian Chappell with chef Lee Cox

A CAFE which the owners hope will become the 'heart' of its village has opened its doors, creating 20 part-time jobs. More than 200 people had applied to work at the new Sedgley venue.

Family-run Cafe Cappella was officially opened by Ian Austin MP on Gospel End Street and already is proving a hit with residents.

Serving homemade cakes, pork pies, scotch eggs and sandwiches with tea and coffee, the cafe is providing part-time work and experience for youngsters looking to get into the world of work.

Businessman Brian Chappell, who opened the cafe along with manager and chef Lee Cox, said he has received around 200 applications from people.

He said: "We bought the premises two and a half years ago, and the ground floor was clear and not really being used properly. I spoke to the local clergy at All Saints Church about the fact that Sedgley really hadn't got a heart any more, so what we decided to do was set up a nice coffee lounge cafe that could be used by Sedgley people."

Hoarders put lives at risk, says fire chief

LIVES are being put at risk by people who hoard possessions, a senior firefighter has warned.

Peter Allington of West Midlands Fire Service said that people across the West Midlands were putting lives in danger by piling up possessions into tightly packed rooms, increasing the risk of fire. He issued the warning during Hoarding Awareness Week, a initiative organised by the Chief Fire Officers Association to promote awareness of the risks of clutter.

Mr Allington, community risk reduction officer, said fires spread much more quickly in buildings in which possessions were piled high, but the occupiers were often unaware of the dangers. "Fires in properties where someone is hoarding create very specific risks and hazards," he said. "Someone can start to hoard for a variety of reasons and don't usually recognise the dangers it presents."

For advice see the website www.helpforhoarders.co.uk

Prolific shoplifting duo are locked up for spate of thefts

TWO prolific shoplifters have each been locked up for 16 months for a series of thefts from Black Country stores.

Daniela Brookes, aged 40, and her 28-year-old partner Chloe Bird struck first at the B&M Bargain Store in Dudley on February 12, escaping with 15 tins of corned beef and a similar haul of salmon, worth £65, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Four days later they struck at the Sainsbury's

local store in Lower Gornal where £93 of food was stolen. The two women – Brookes had committed 52 previous thefts and Bird 16 – were recognised by police when they viewed CCTV from the shop and were soon arrested.

They appeared in court on March 3 and were given bail but that did not stop their offending, explained Mr Simon Hunka, prosecuting.

On March 16 they stole £50 worth of meat and cheese from the Spar convenience store in the Wordsley Green Shopping Centre in Stourbridge and the following day took cosmetics valued at £49 at the Wilkinson shop in Dudley where they

were detained and arrested again, the court heard last week.

Mr Colin McCarraher, defending both women, said they were driven by the need to get money to buy drugs. But he added: "They are now making strides to getting away from heroin."

Brookes is pregnant and expecting a child which the couple want to bring up together, the court was told.

Brookes from Cole Street, Netherton, admitted four thefts while Bird, of the same address, pleaded guilty to two of the thefts and asked for the other two to be taken into consideration.

Scarlet fever cases increase

MORE than 440 cases of scarlet fever were reported across the Black Country and Staffordshire in eight months — an increase of 500 per cent.

There were 370 more children reported with the illness between last September and May this year compared to the same period for 2012/13, when the total was 74.

Across the Black Country there were 305 reports of the illness compared to 47.

In Dudley there were 79 cases compared to 13 last year, Sandwell had 46 with nine the previous year and in South Staffordshire there were 17 cases when there had been none.

But bosses at Public Health England say the rate at which cases are being reported nationally is slowing down.

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In Bowness there is plenty to do. Perhaps hire a small boat or sit by the waterfront and admire the views. There is also a Beatrix Potter attraction and a steamboat museum which has an interesting collection of late Victorian steamboats (entrances payable locally).

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Lighthouse a beacon of hope for sufferers

AN Albion great returned to the town where he earned his goal-scoring reputation to relive some of his memorable footballing moments with a special group of fans.

Tony 'Bomber' Brown officially launched the new £1 million dementia resource hub in West Bromwich which will support people living with the condition and their carers.

The former inside forward, who scored 218 goals between 1963 and 1980 for the Baggies, cut the cake and then took part in a football memories group.

As the family of Jeff Astle, his old striking partner, step up their campaign to get justice for the Albion No 9's untimely death from Alzheimer's, the 68-year-old said: "More people should be aware of dementia and what it involves and a centre like this will help towards that."

Cultural

The centre at Edward Street Hospital includes a cafe, hairdressers, a social/cinema room and a cultural library where people can document their personal life stories.

The project, known as the Lighthouse, also has a demonstration area to show how families and carers can adapt their homes and their routines to help a dementia sufferer.

Senior manager Louise Dawes said: "It's about providing information to make life easier for families. There's a stigma about dementia that can stop people seeking help."

"Some ethnic groups just see it as part of old age when, in fact, there are things you can do to make life better for that person with dementia."

The centre has a mocked-up kitchen and bedroom showing how they can



Tony Brown and partnership chief executive Karen Dowman cut the cake be made more dementia-friendly. Another Albion legend Darren 'Big Dave' Moore, who twice helped Albion to win promotion in to the Premiership, turned up for the football memories group which meets over a six-week session.

The football-themed meetings,

which last for 90 minutes with a break at 'half time' for Bovril, were the idea of staff nurse David Hipgrave. He said: "It's all about stimulating the senses and the emotions. Footballs is something a lot of people were very passionate about and this group stirs those memories and feelings."

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i10 S 1.0: Urban 47.1 (6.0), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 60.1 (4.7), CO₂ Emissions 108 g/km. Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 5dr: Urban 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 57.6 (4.9), CO₂ Emissions 114 g/km.

Music lovers who rode on rock wave



Rob Lynch on stage at Slam Dunk Festival

THEY came in their thousands. And one hell of a party they had.

Slam Dunk Festival at Wolverhampton Civic Hall arrived in Wolverhampton with an almighty roar.

Ok. It wasn't Glastonbury. It wasn't V Festival. But the streets around Wolverhampton's Civic Hall were transformed into a sea of music lovers riding on the waves of rock.

Ripped tights, black lipstick and tattoos aplenty this was the 'alternative' crowd at its best. But, despite the thousands, there appeared to be not one bad word said throughout the day.

Heavy metal, rock, whatever

SlamDunk Festival arrived with a roar and was one hell of a party for the thousands of fans as TIM SPIERS explains

your bag, a more friendly crowd of music lovers you'll never come across.

The headliners The All-American Rejects put on a storming set, opening with Dirty Little Secret (for non-rock fans, bet you've played it on Guitar Hero), as well as other singles such as Move Along, Bee-keeper's Daughter and Gives You Hell. The crowds filtered in and out to the various stalls and food vendors outside before running back in to dance away to some high octane tunes.

In the scheme of festivals, this



Stephen Sutton meeting the PM

may be the 'alco-pop' of the lot - there's no camping out or three-day benders. But, if rock's your thing, this is surely as good as it gets. And, this year in particular, it means more than ever.

Our fundraising hero Stephen Sutton fulfilled one of his 'bucket list' wishes when he crowd surfed in a dinghy at last year's Slam Dunk. And so this one was for him.

Donations

Ben Ray, organiser of Slam Dunk, said: "We don't know just yet how much we have raised but we've been told that we have had more donations than the last two days, but it hasn't all been counted up yet."

"It all came about when one of the band managers last year asked if we could smuggle a rubber dinghy into the festival and he explained the situation to me."



Headlining act The All-American Rejects on stage

"Because of health and safety, all I could do was turn a blind eye to it. I put him in touch with the stage manager of where he wanted to do it. There were a few pictures floating about online and a video at the time, but I didn't really look into it properly, I wish I had now."

"When it all exploded earlier this year, I posted on social media that he had ticked something off his list at Slam Dunk last year, and lots of people were saying to us they had been there but didn't know it was him."

"I was going to put out a tribute to Stephen after I heard he had died, but then I thought it would be better to raise some money."

"We had worked with Teenage Cancer Trust before, so we have been collecting for them across all three dates."

"We are such a small part of his story but we are all very pleased to have been able to help him tick something off his bucket list."

Hannah Blackwell, from Bilston, said: "I had seen that Stephen Sutton had done the crowd surf in a dinghy but didn't realise it was here."

Bosses at Download Festival, at Donington Park, near Derby next month, announced they would be renaming the main stage after Stephen. Slam Dunk also took place at Leeds University and The Forum



Fans came from all around to enjoy the festival



Crowds go wild at packed festival at Wolverhampton Civic Hall



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Dairy due to open at historic Oak House

LONG-FORGOTTEN parts of a historic house turned visitor attraction will be opened up for the first time by tourism bosses.

Much of Oak House in West Bromwich that has been closed off to the public in the past will be opened up later this year. The move comes as offices and cleaning equipment in the house is moved to the newly-restored

barn.

The £1.7 million project has seen the structure next to the house converted to house a reception area, tea-room, classroom, toilets and a museum shop.

As part of the move, a dairy and servants' quarters – will be refurbished and opened to the public who will be able to see more of the domestic

side of the timber-framed house that has previously been kept behind closed doors.

Frank Caldwell, museums, arts and tourism manager at Sandwell Council said: "The changes taking place at the Oak House are going to mark the end of a major restoration at the building and will welcome in a new era for the popular visitor attraction."

Council costs axe fells 100-year-old horticultural show

Colourful Chelsea cocktail



Laura Leong with her Chelsea Flower Show floral cocktail

FLORIST Laura Leong was given a dream commission – to create a floral display using cocktails.

The 42-year-old from Kingswinford said: "I can't tell you I didn't try any of the drinks."

Last week she handed over her crown as Chelsea Flower Show's florist of the year to another after 12 months crammed with travel and among her many work commitments was a commission from cocktail specialists Thebar.com in celebration of the annual Chelsea show. She created the scented gar-

den in a photographer's studio in London using 420 glasses filled with 15 different cocktails and a kaleidoscopic mixture of 300 flowers.

The edible foliage included borage, dianthus, lavender, rosemary, pansies, roses and marigolds.

Mother-of-one Laura had not entered Chelsea this year after picking up medals at the last three shows but helped out on the National Union of Farmers' entry which was this week awarded a Silver Gilt award.

AN ANNUAL horticultural show with more than 100 years of history has been scrapped due to cost-cutting measures.

Sandwell Horticultural Show will not take place as part of this year's Sandwell Show, it has been announced. Council chiefs in Sandwell said they were 'simply not able to afford the same things' as they battle to make cuts of £120 million by 2016.

They said cuts to the local authority's budget means spending on the August Bank Holiday Show, held at King George V Playing Field in Sandwell Valley, has been 'scaled back'.

Last year's horticultural show cost the council around £21,000 to stage including staff costs, tent hire and admin.

Organisers of the popular horticultural show said they were shocked to learn the gardening part of it would not be included this year.

They have been offered a council grant of £5,000 to hold the show elsewhere.

Councillor Steve Melia, chair of the Horticultural Show committee, said: "To find out that the show is being cut was a complete bombshell."

Posters

"We have only been told at the last minute that the show can't go ahead, it is really devastating."

He said posters, forms and schedules for the event had already been designed and were ready to be printed when he received the news that it would not be taking place this year.

"No-one knew this was going to happen, it has come as a complete shock to everyone," said Councillor Melia. "There are people who have been preparing and growing plants for months and now they won't be able to show them."

The show has been an important part of the calendar for local gardeners and has been in existence since before the borough was formed in 1974.

Its roots stem as far back as the West Bromwich Horticultural show that was started more than 100 years ago.

The council's service manager, parks and countryside services, John Satchwell said the council had offered to support the Horticultural Show committee with a £5,000 grant to fund the event at a different venue.

The Sandwell Show takes place on August 24 and 25.

Training given on dementia help to carers Phone protest council worker is sent home

EIGHT carers have been given specialist training to help cope with the growing number of people with Alzheimer's disease as part of National Dementia Awareness Week.

The caregivers in Sandwell from company Home Instead Senior Care, have undergone the City and Guilds training programme to help older people remain in their own homes for longer than would otherwise be possible.

The programme teaches innovative techniques for dealing with dementia rather than focusing on the symptoms and treatments.

Caregivers are trained in techniques for managing the many different, and sometimes challenging behaviours associated with dementia including refusal, delusions, aggression, false accusations, wandering and agitation.

Ram Singh, from Home Instead, said: "Rather than trying to force those living with Alzheimer's or another dementia to live in our world in the here and now, we need to meet them in the past and this programme helps our caregivers to do this. 'This programme focuses on supporting wanted behaviours.'"

A COUNCIL worker has been suspended and is under investigation after an email was sent to colleagues urging them to bombard mobile phones with calls and messages to 'disrupt' the office.

Sandwell Council has confirmed it is looking into the incident on May 15.

But bosses stressed that the worker's suspension did not mean they had done anything wrong.

The email suggested there was a rule banning people from keeping phones on their desks but allowing them to use ring tones, rather than be on silent.

It called for people to ring, text or send messages via the WhatsApp App service, all of which would result in a loud tone being played.

The email, sent from a personal address to six colleagues, is said to have originated from a worker in the council's finance department.

Council chief executive Jan Britton said: "Suspension is a neutral act which does not imply wrongdoing. One individual made a suggestion from a personal email address to a handful of colleagues in their own time. We have investigated this."



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Women seeking men

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PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gen, possibly farmer for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408297

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, young looking, bubbly, WLTm similar young at heart companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1945 Box 412285

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTm sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711

TINA sexy black female looking for heavy distractions with fun adult companion interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411519

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411219

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate and treat me well. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041

ANNA busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving man for ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411777

CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919

ADVENTUROUS 32yr old slim, dark haired, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753



CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 410127

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949

ARE you dark or bald, with wavy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTm tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415

Men seeking women

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TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT26 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)

ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412261

TOM 31, seeking female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411165

ATTRACTIVE blue eyed 6ft 4in medium build 55 year old male, OHAC, enjoys country walks and eating out seeks tall female any age. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4395915

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335

SLIM attractive Asian male, GSOH, seeks likeminded discreet female for adult friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411305

ADVENTUROUS 32yr old slim, dark haired, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753

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INTELLIGENT sincere Shropshire male, slim, young 60's, playfully assertive, seeking complimentary, responsive, feminine lady, 50-60's who enjoys music, books, the arts and countryside. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411285

EASY going male 45, likes sports, seeks female for relationship. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411541

5FT 6ins male, dark hair/eyes, glasses, likes meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411455

IAN 47, 5ft 11ins, likes cinema, nights in/out, sports, socialising. GSOH seeking similar female. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411297

MALE WLTm pear shaped lady, 50-65. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109

ATTRACTIVE male, seeks 100% adult fun with woman, any age/looks or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411253

PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411099

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional male, broadminded, adventurous, clean, discreet, GSOH, easy going, good company, looking for lady for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411019

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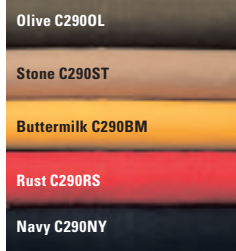
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Talent shone when the lights went out

Review

When The Lights Go Out
Newhampton Arts Centre
A showcase of acoustic musicians from the Black Country and wider Midlands showed there's a wealth of talent out there waiting to be tapped.

It also showed the studio of the struggling Newhampton Arts Centre in Dunkley Street, Whitmore Reans has the resources to be one of Wolverhampton's top live music venues.

Lauren Pryke, an 18-year-old indie pop singer/songwriter and guitarist from Birmingham opened proceedings with songs such as Take Me Home in which she showed off her skills on the strings.

Towards the end of her set, by her own admission, her voice was starting to break up.

She did seem to struggle at the top end of her range but it wasn't easy for any of the acts who had to battle over the noise of a less than attentive crowd which got bigger and louder as the night progressed.

Her last song, a cover version of The Killers' Mr Brightside showed her musical dexterity.

Lauren gave up the stage to fellow Brummie Sean Flood.

Flood's style was much more in your face opening with Wishing. His voice is quite nasal and he seemed at times to be fighting a sound battle with his own guitar.

Whether by accident or design he does still have the roughness of a busker in his performance.

Flood is innovative with his guitar and tries to get the most out of his



The highlight of the night was Shannon Wheatley from Sedgley

strings but it doesn't always quite work. With Jazz Hates this was evident, where his voice and his guitar seemed, at times, to be in conflict.

He finished his set with his own song Biscuit Barrel which had more of a bluesy feel to it.

Clayton Cross, who was on his home turf, took to the stage with Tom Simmons from Walsall. They opened with a Kasabian cover and what became clear right from the start is they were much better guitarists than singers.

Guitarists

Cross can hit some right notes occasionally but Simmons should stick to instrumentals.

They are good guitarists, there is no two ways about it but if they are going to be working together then they should consider bringing a dedicated singer in and they should stick to the instrumentals.

Without doubt the highlight of the night was Shannon Wheatley, from Sedgley.

It was her first gig but you would not have known it.

Her voice has clarity, strength and a gentle vulnerability which produces a gorgeous sound that was a mixture of Dolores O'Riordan, Sinead O'Connor and Cyndi Lauper.

It won't be long before Wheatley will be headlining at concerts.

Following on was Andy Bowater who produced a really distinctive sound using just his guitar and a drummer.

Headliner, Wolverhampton's own Dave Boddison took to the stage with all the confidence you would expect from someone who is seasoned in gigging around the region.

Straight away he showed his impressive guitar picking and distinctive voice with songs such as Pockets.

Boddison showed how easy he makes it look as he harmonises his lyrics with his guitar playing.

He has a silky and likeable manner of singing and his voice has a light texture which makes you feel better for listening to him.

His range is impressive and his ability to play with words is a delight to listen to.

Sunday 15th June



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Veteran singer has show in heartland

ONE of the last of the great crooners of the 1950s, Tony Bennett, will be playing the Symphony Hall later this year as part of a UK tour only visiting Birmingham, London and Glasgow.

The veteran singer, whose signature song is I Left My Heart In San Francisco, has in recent years had hit albums featuring duets, ranging from Lady Gaga and Amy Winehouse to Michael Buble and Paul McCartney.

In a career spanning six decades, the New Yorker who is 87 in August has won 17 Grammy awards. He will be in concert at the Centenary Square venue on September 11. Tickets went on sale last week priced from £45 to £75.

Culture Club to be reunited at NIA

THE original line-up of 1980s chart toppers Culture Club is to play live dates across the UK.

The band, including Boy George, will be playing at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, on December 12 with guest Alison Moyet.

It is the first time in 15 years the original quartet, which also includes drummer Jon Moss, bass player Mikey Craig and guitarist Roy Hay, have played together.

Culture Club sold more than 100 million singles and 50m albums and achieved seven straight Top 10 hits in the UK.

Thrones actor in dramatic tribute to great Welsh poet

Vintage ballets revived

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet are returning to their city home to present a summer season from June 4 to 15 which is a tribute to founder choreographer Frederick Ashton.

From Wednesday to Saturday at Birmingham Hippodrome, Darkness and Light features three works from the early days of British ballet in the 1930s and 40s.

Created during the war and inspired by Dante's Divine Comedy and featuring music by Liza, Dante Sonata depicts the struggle between good and evil. Les Rendezvous is a charming ballet about friends meeting in a park and Facade is a comic work based on Edith Sitwell's poems.

From June 11 to 15, Ashton's classic family favourite set in a rural idyll, La Pille mal gardee with its famous clog dance, will be staged at the Hippodrome.



A scene from Frederick Ashton's Les Rendezvous performed by Birmingham Royal Ballet

GAME of Thrones actor Owen Teale will return to his Welsh roots in the centenary production of Under Milk Wood, celebrating what would have been the 100th birthday of poet Dylan Thomas this year.

A company of Welsh actors feature in director Terry Hands' touring production at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. The production marks the centenary of Dylan Thomas' birth, as well as the 60th anniversary since Under Milk Wood was first produced in Britain, as a radio play by the BBC, in 1954.

Village

The lyrical evocation of the Welsh seaside village of Llareggub (try it backwards) and the secrets of its inhabitants will be revealed in this Cwylud Theatr Cymru production. It also features Torchwood actor Kai Owen and Steven Meo from BBC TV sitcom Grownups.

Swansea-born, like Dylan Thomas, actor Owen Teale is currently Night Watch master of arms Alliser Thorne in hit fantasy series Game of Thrones and has also appeared in Stella. He won a Best Actor Tony for his performance in A Doll's House on Broadway.

Shirley Ann Field and Karen Ford star in creepy Victorian melodrama Ladies in Retirement at Wolverhampton Grand from Tuesday to Friday.



Owen Teale — Under Milk Wood

day to Friday. Propeller Theatre Company, devoted to Shakespeare, are coming to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre. A Comedy of Errors will be staged on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday matinee. A Midsummer Night's Dream on Wednesday, Thursday (twice) and Saturday evening.

The National Theatre's hit farce One Man Two Guvnors continues at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday.

Bugg back like lightning for gig

SINGER Jake Bugg has announced an extra date at Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

The Nottingham-born singer-songwriter earlier this month announced he would play the venue as part of his UK tour on October 7. But due to huge demand for tickets, he will also now play the Civic Hall on October 6. His tour this autumn takes in London's Alexandra Palace, while Bugg will also perform at Glastonbury, T in the Park and Reading and Leeds Festivals this summer.

In under three years Bugg has gone from performing in pubs to selling out the Royal Albert Hall and playing to 10,000 at Nottingham Arena. He picked up best new act at last year's Q Awards.

Bunnymen will be returning in July

A CONCERT by Echo & The Bunnymen which was cancelled earlier this month has been rescheduled for July.

The influential Liverpool rock band were due to appear at Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall on May 11 but had to pull out when lead singer Ian McCulloch lost his voice.

The concert has now been rescheduled for Thursday, July 3.

All tickets for the original date remain valid, although refunds are available for those unable to make the new date.

Tickets priced £29.15 are available on 0870 320 7000.

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CHOICE



Matthew Rhys

The Americans (ITV, 10.20pm)
Over the past couple of years The Americans has attracted a cult following on this side of the Pond, and there's a good chance these final two episodes will leave fans perched on the edge of their seats. This week, Arkady finally plays his hand, and Stan (Noah Emmerich) is forced into an unenviable decision. Meanwhile, Philip (Matthew Rhys) attempts to prep Fred for a vital mission and Elizabeth (Keri Russell) desperately tries to get Jared out. In the season finale, Nina's fate rests in Stan's hands, and Henry and Paige are moved to a safe house. Holly Taylor, Keidrich Sellati, Noah Emmerich, Richard Thomas, Susan Misner, Alison Wright, Lev Gorn, Annet Mahendru, Costa Ronin and Lee Tergesen also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigellissima. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.00** Live Triathlon. The ITU World Triathlon Series meeting from Hyde Park, London. **5.10 Film:** How to Train Your Dragon. (2010) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jay Baruchel. **6.40 BBC News;** Regional News; Weather. **7.00 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman quiz more famous faces, inviting four pairs of TV academics to take on the challenge. The teams are broadcaster Clemency Burton-Hill and doctor-turned-funnyman Graeme Garden. TV historian Dan Snow and Countdown word expert Susie Dent, doctor and TV presenter Michael Mosley and academic Germaine Greer, and BBC business correspondents Robert Peston and Steph McGovern. (R) **7.50 The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Gaby Roslin presents the Lotto and Thunderball draws, with music by Matt Cardle. **8.40 Casualty.** A barrister is angry to have been replaced on a case by a colleague, and as she dashes from court she collides with a cyclist. However, when Jeff and Tamzin arrive, it soon becomes clear the woman's problems are more mental than physical. A teenager is brought in after collapsing and as Connie tries to find the cause, she also has to deal with his overbearing father, who is struggling to come to terms with his son's sexuality. **9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys.** A hypnotist provides the entertainment at the triplets' baptism – and Agnes soon finds herself under his spell. Meanwhile, Mark delivers some heart-breaking news. (R) **10.00 BBC News;** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.20 Film: Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time.** (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Gemma Arterton. **12.05 Film:** The Uninvited. (2009) **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 The Pallisers. (R) **7.30** Great British Menu. (R) **8.00** Great British Menu. (R) **8.30** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** World Cup Films. **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** Two Greedy Italians. (R) **1.00** Robert Mitchum: Talking Pictures. **1.35** Film: Build My Gallows High. (1947) Film noir, starring Robert Mitchum. **3.05** Film: Fire Down Below. (1957) Romantic drama, starring Rita Hayworth and Robert Mitchum. **5.00** Flog It! (R) **6.00 Natural World: Meet the Monkeys.** Wildlife cameraman Colin Stafford-Johnson travels to the Indonesian island of Sulawesi to examine the lives of Celebes crested macaques, which are found nowhere else in the world. He teams up with a local biologist to get to know some of the characters in the troop and reveal their habits, and learns that the species has become endangered due to an illegal trade in its meat, which is seen as a delicacy. (R) **7.00 Sir Kenneth Clark: Portrait of a Civilised Man – A Culture Show Special.** An archive of the broadcaster and art historian to coincide with a Tate Britain exhibition about him, revealing a contradictory character who transformed the UK's cultural landscape. **8.00 Fawcett Towers.** Basil goes to great lengths to prove a guest has smuggled a woman into his room, but instead keeps being caught in compromising situations with a young Australian woman. (R) **8.35 The Goodies.** A gigantic kitten terrorises London, leaving the three friends as the only ones who can save the city. Comedy, starring Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie. (R) **9.05 I Love 1973.** Noddy Holder presents a nostalgic look back at 1973, when his band Slade were at the height of their success, the latest fashion fad was the parka and Kojak was a TV hit. (R) **10.05 Top of the Pops Christmas 1978.** Noel Edmonds presents a festive edition of the music show, featuring Darts, Abba, Boney M, Rose Royce, Bee Gees, Wings, Kate Bush and Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta. (R) **11.05 The Old Grey Whistle Test: 70s Gold.** (R) **12.35 Film:** Mean Streets. (1973) **2.20** This Is BBC Two. **5.40 Film:** Beautiful But Dangerous. (1954)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News; Weather. **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **12.20** Storage Hoarders. (R) **1.05** Film: Beethoven's 5th. (2003) **3.05** 50 Minute Makeover. (R) **4.05** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.35** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather. **6.00 Let Me Entertain You.** Viewers' videos for Beyonce and LMFAO hits, Freddie Mercury impersonators, and a musical showdown between aerial hoopists and workers at a hearing dogs for the deaf home. **6.30 New You've Been Framed!** Comedian Harry Hill puts his own spin on viewers' clips, featuring the Mafia moving to the Lake District and Harry himself challenging Vic Reeves to a game of walnut golf. **7.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the last live semi-final, which sees nine acts compete for this year's Royal Variety Performance. The results are at 9.30pm. **8.30 World Cup Epic Falls.** Angus Deayton celebrates the funny side of the football tournament, from cringeworthy opening ceremonies and dreadful songs to previously unseen presenter out-takes. **9.30 Britain's Got Talent Results.** The act who most impressed the public receives a ticket to the final, while the judges offer the last remaining place to one of the runners-up. Ant and Dec present. **10.00** ITV News; Weather. **10.20 The Americans.** Arkady finally plays his hand, forcing Stan into an unenviable decision, Philip tries to prepare Fred for a crucial mission and Elizabeth rushes to get Jared out. **11.15 The Americans.** Nina finds her fate is in Stan's hands, while Paige and Henry are moved to a safe house as parents Philip and Elizabeth complete their latest mission. Last in the series. **12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park, York and Newmarket. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** Come Dine with Me. Martin Young hosts the final dinner party in Chelmsford, Essex, throwing a Caribbean-themed evening before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R) **6.40 Channel 4 News.** **7.05 The Restoration Man.** George Clarke meets builders Ian and Jayne Hall Edwards, who want to turn a derelict Victorian school in Pencader, Carmarthenshire, into a place of business and a family home. (R) **8.00 Grand Designs.** Royal Marine captain Jon's life changed for ever when he stepped onto a land mine in Afghanistan and lost three limbs. After viewing many uninspired specialist homes and considering awkward conversions, he and partner Becky realised their best option was to build a property themselves. The design is cutting-edge, with sleek glass walls, open-plan spaces and a dramatic wing-like roof, and the couple want there to be no noticeable adaptations. However, they soon use up their budget of £250,000 and encounter problems with their incredibly tight schedule. Kevin McCloud follows their progress. (R) **9.00 Film: Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance.** (2011) Premiere. The demon biker roams Eastern Europe, looking for a way to rid himself of his supernatural alter ego. He is approached by a mysterious monk, who needs help protecting a boy from the horrific destiny the Devil has in store for him. Fantasy thriller sequel, starring Nicolas Cage, Idris Elba, Claran Hinds and Christopher Lambert. **10.50 Film: The Firm.** (1993) Thriller, starring Tom Cruise and Gene Hackman. **1.45 Film:** Semi-Pro. (2008) **3.15** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.20** Four Rooms. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **10.30** Classic Car Rescue. (R) **11.35** Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment. (1985) **1.20** Film: Raid on Rommel. (1971) Second World War adventure, starring Richard Burton. **3.15** Film: The Dam Busters. (1954) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Michael Redgrave. **5.45** What the Dambusters Did Next. (R) **7.00 Cricket on 5: Fourth ODI.** England v Sri Lanka. Mark Nicholas presents action from the fourth encounter in the five-match one-day international series, which was staged at Lord's. England's record here in this format in recent years is distinctly average, with just two victories from their last nine matches, including a six-wicket defeat to the Sri Lankans in 2011. With commentary by Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes. **8.00 5 News Weekend.** **8.10 Longmire.** Walt investigates the murder of two teenagers who were acquitted of raping a Cheyenne girl and all signs point to the victim's brother exacting revenge. Last in the series. **8.55 NCIS.** Tony and Ziva visit Paris to escort Nora Williams, the key witness in an embezzlement case, back to America – but on the return flight they realise an assassin has boarded the plane with them, determined to ensure she never reaches home soil to testify. Crime drama, starring Michael Weatherly and Cote de Pablo. (R) **9.55 NCIS.** Tony and Ziva track a nuclear reactor terrorist to a warehouse, where they find traces of radioactive metal – together with evidence suggesting a nuclear attack on Washington, DC, is being planned. Unfortunately, news of the threat leaks out to the public, triggering widespread panic. Naval crime drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R) **10.55 NCIS.** Gibbs' former mother-in-law survives as a witness in a murder investigation, and it transpires the victim had ties to a suspect cartel that killed the agent's first wife and daughter. (R) **11.55 Access.** Showbiz news and gossip. **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Car Crime UK: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Doctor Who **8.30** Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** World Cup's Best Ever Goals. Ever! **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.15** Russell Howard's Good News **1.45** World Cup's Best Ever Goals. Ever! **2.40** Sweet the Small Stuff **3.10** C-Bomb **3.30** Russell Howard's Good News **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Amazon Abyss **8.00** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **9.00** Wallander **10.30** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Earthquakes **11.30** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Avalanches **12.30** History of the Eagles **1.35** Top of the Pops: 1979 **2.20** Sounds of the 70s **2** Reggae – Stir It Up **2.50** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **3.50** Close
ITV2
11.25 Fearnie and McBusted **1.25** You've Been Framed! Full Throttle **2.25** You've Been Framed Extreme! **3.35** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **5.20** Film: Dungeons and Dragons (2000) **7.25** Film: Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) **10.00** Britain's Got More Talent **11.05** Film: Fast & Furious (2009) **1.15** Viral Tap **1.55** Britain's Got More Talent **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.45 Northanger Abbey **2.45** Lewis **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00** Lewis **2.00** Judge Judy **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
9.00 TT 2014 **10.00** Premiership Rugby Union **11.00** Film: The Killer Inside Me (2010) **1.15** TT 2014 **2.15** Nitro Circus **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping
E4
2.00 The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Made in Chelsea **4.00** Youngers **4.35** Rude (sh) Tube **5.30** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **12.05** The Intebewners **1.10** Rude Tube: Epic Fails **2.15** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** The Cleveland Show **3.45** Glee
Film4
1.00 The Addams Family (1991) **2.55** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids (1989) **4.45** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **6.30** The Legend of Zorro (2005) **9.00** A Time to Kill (1996) **11.55** 28 Weeks Later (2007)

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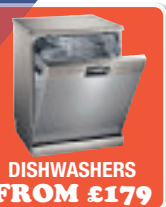
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CHOICE



Christine Bleakley and Michael Flatley

Michael Flatley: A Night to Remember (ITV, 8pm) Marking the 20th anniversary of Riverdance, this entertainment special hosted by Christine Bleakley sees Michael Flatley take to the stage to perform on British TV for the first time in more than a decade, accompanied by his troupe of 30 dancers and musicians. The renowned choreographer also looks back on his career, and former Girls Aloud singer Nadine Coyle performs the title song to his new show Lord of the Dance - Dangerous Games. Friends and fans including Bruce Forsyth also pay tribute.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Countryfile. (R) 2.10 Flog It! 3.10 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.55 Brazil with Michael Palin. (R) 4.55 Points of View. 5.10 Songs of Praise. 5.45 Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.30 BBC News: Weather. **7.00 Countryfile.** Matt Baker visits Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire, once owned by the powerful Rothschild family, revealing the links between the estate and the Wildlife Trust. Ellie Harrison is nearby in Wendover Woods, discovering creatures great and small, from tiny bats to a mythical beast loved by children everywhere. John Craven finds out about the traditional art of printing using boxwood. Tom Heap asks the developers of the HS2 high-speed train whether they can live up to their environmental promise of no loss to biodiversity and Adam Henson searches for a new bull on the Queen's Balmoral estate. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The experts visit the home of the Royal Ballet School in Richmond Park, London, where items include a table made of timber from Old London Bridge and a musical chamber pot. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 Quirke. The family has been rocked by the revelation that Quirke is the natural father of Phoebe, prompting her to move out and take up with a dangerous man called Leslie White. The name soon becomes familiar to the pathologist, who is investigating two apparent suicides - one a rich society woman, the other the wife of a former student - and when he is led into Dublin's seedy underworld of drugs and erotica, he has reason to fear for his daughter's safety. Crime drama set in the 1950s, starring Gabriel Byrne.

10.30 BBC News: Weather. **10.55 Regional Programme.**

11.25 Film: Ghost Town. (2008) A bad-tempered dentist gains the ability to see ghosts and is forced to help them sort out their unresolved problems. Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais.

1.00 Weatherview. 1.05 BBC News.

BBC2

7.05 The Pallisers. (R) **8.00 Gardeners' World.** (R) **8.30 The Beechgrove Garden.** **9.00 World Cup Films.** 10.40 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 12.00 Live Rowing. The European Championships. 1.45 **Film: The Victors.** (1953) Second World War drama, starring George Peppard. **4.15 Live Women's FA Cup Final.** Everton v Arsenal (Kick-off 4.30pm).

7.00 Tropic of Cancer. Simon Reeve continues to trace the path of the northern tropic around the globe, joining travellers on the coast of Western Sahara to partake in the extreme sport of kite surfing, and meeting activists who campaign for indigenous people's rights. He continues on through the world's largest minefield, takes a gruelling train ride across Mauritania and visits huge refugee camps in the Algerian desert. (R)

8.00 I Bought a Rainforest. New series. Wildlife cameraman Charlie Hamilton James has bought 100 acres of the Peruvian rainforest, a strategic purchase he hopes will stop loggers entering the Manu National Park and illegally cutting down trees. In the first edition, he establishes camp and gets his bearings, only to discover he has not bought the pristine virgin rainforest of his dreams, but instead an area of secondary forest complete with a squatter, cocaine crops and evidence suggesting that he may have some dangerous neighbours.

9.00 Britain's Greatest Pilot: The Extraordinary Story of Captain Winkle Brown. Former Royal Navy officer and test pilot Captain Eric "Winkle" Brown has flown more types of aircraft than anyone in history and is regarded as one of the best pilots Britain has produced. In this programme, the 95-year-old chats to James Holland about his flying experiences and encounters with Nazis, as well as other adventures leading up to and during the Second World War, illustrated by archive and personal photographs.

10.00 D-Day: The Last Heroes. Part one of two. Dan Snow examines how meticulous planning, espionage and 3D aerial photos helped the Allied forces gain a foothold in northern France in June 1944. (R)

11.00 D-Day: The Last Heroes. (R) **12.00 Film: Battle in Seattle.** (2007) **1.35 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R) **2.30 Holby City.** (R) **3.30 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50 Canimals.** (R) **7.00 Canimals.** (R) **7.05 Sooty.** (R) **7.20 Digimon Fusion.** (R) **7.45 Horrid Henry.** (R) **8.00 Deadline Stories.** (R) **8.25 ITV News.** **8.30 Weekend.** **9.25 May the Best House Win.** (R) **10.20 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.20 Love Your Garden.** (R) **12.25 ITV News: Weather.** **12.30 Long Lost Family.** (R) **1.35 Film: Columbus: Etude in Black.** (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and John Cassavetes. **3.30 Let Me Entertain You.** (R) **4.00 A Touch of Frost.** (R)

6.00 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill showcases more funny footage filmed by viewers, featuring monkeys behaving badly, major slip-ups and Harry's Top Five Reasons to Never Go to America. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather. **7.00 Catchphrase Celebrity Special.** Denise Van Outen, Jo Brand and Charlie Condou try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues and win thousands of pounds for charity. Stephen Mulhern hosts.

8.00 Michael Flatley: A Night to Remember. Christine Bleakley hosts an entertainment special in which the choreographer takes to the stage with his troupe of 30 dancers and musicians, as well as looking back on his career.

9.00 Coronation Street. Tina's condition deteriorates and the pressure mounts for one resident. A furious Nick realises Leanne and Kai are having an affair, while Rita's attitude toward Dennis thaws.

9.30 Film: Quantum of Solace. (2008) James Bond sets out on a personal mission of vengeance as he pursues the secret criminal organisation Quantum. His search leads him to the head of an ecological corporation, who is plotting to orchestrate a coup in a Latin American country to get his hands on a precious natural resource. Spy thriller sequel, starring Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko, Judi Dench, Gemma Arterton and Mathieu Amalric. **11.35 ITV News: Weather.**

11.50 Premiership Rugby Union. **12.40 The Store.** 2.40 Motorsport UK. **3.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **4.15 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40 British F3 International Series.** **7.10 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.30 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch.** **12.30 Secret Eaters.** (R) **1.25 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.55 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.25 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.50 The Simpsons.** (R) **3.20 The Simpsons.** (R) **3.50 Film: Chalet Girl.** (2011) Comedy, starring Felicity Jones. **5.40 Deal or No Deal.**

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Four Rooms. Danes Gordon Watson, Celia Sawyer, Alex Proud and David Sonnenhalt dig deep into their pockets for a retro arcade machine, a rare collection of JRR Tolkien first-edition books, a celebrity sports kit and show-stopping shoes. Meeting each potential purchaser in a separate room, the sellers must judge when to part with their valuable items and when to reject an offer. Presented by Anita Ranai.

8.00 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead have travelled the barns and lock-ups of Britain to find and painstakingly restore six classic vehicles. Now it's time for their pride-and-joy collection to be shipped off to one of the nation's largest and most prestigious car auctions to face their last, and greatest, challenge - the buying public. The auction room fills with some familiar faces as the Ford Escort Mexico, Mini Cooper MK1, Triumph Stag, Land Rover Series 1, MG-TC and DeLorean DMC-12 all go under the hammer. Last in the series.

9.00 Fargo. As Malvo seeks answers, Lester schemes to obtain a few of his own, but is the insurance salesman in too deep? Meanwhile, Molly and Gus try to get past a setback in the murder investigation. Continuing the American drama inspired by the Coen brothers' hit film, starring Billy Bob Thornton, Martin Freeman and Allison Tolman.

10.05 Film: The Change-Up. (2011) Premiere. Two friends envy each other's life, but when they magically switch bodies, they learn the other does not have it so easy. Comedy, with Jason Bateman and Ryan Reynolds. **12.10 Film: Meet the Spartans.** (2008) **1.35 Southland.** **2.20 Utah.** (R) **3.15 Dog's Mercury.** (R) **3.40 Building the Dream.** (R) **4.35 Deal or No Deal.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15 Fifi and the Flowerpots.** (R) **6.25 Bubble Guppies.** (R) **6.40 The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.50 Chloe's Closet.** **7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too.** (R) **7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.25 Make Way for Mr. Moddy.** (R) **7.35 City of Friends.** (R) **7.45 Milkshake! Pop Box.** (R) **7.55 Little Princess.** (R) **8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.25 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **8.45 Rupert Bear.** (R) **9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15 Jelly Jam.** (R) **9.30 LazyTown.** (R) **10.00 Power Rangers Super Samurai.** (R) **10.35 Power Rangers Megaforce.** (R) **11.10 Access.** (R) **11.25 Ultimate Police Interceptors.** **11.55 Film: Street Fighter.** (1994) **1.50 Film: Richie Rich.** (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. **3.40 Film: Big Daddy.** (1999) Comedy, starring Adam Sandler. **5.25 Film: Open Season 2.** (2008) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Joel McHale.

7.00 5 News Weekend. **7.05 Film: Jackie Chan's The Medallion.** (2003) An evil crime lord tries to capture a boy with supernatural powers, but a team of international police officers is on his trail. One of the cops is killed saving the child, who resurrects him using a magical medallion. The revived detective now has superhuman abilities, which he uses to protect the youngster. Comedy adventure, with Jackie Chan, Lee Evans, Julian Sands, Claire Forlani and John Rhys-Davies. Edited for violence.

9.00 Film: Resident Evil: Extinction. (2007) Zombie-fighting heroine Alice comes out of hiding to protect a group of refugees in a post-apocalyptic wasteland overrun by the walking dead. Meanwhile, the sinister corporation that created the zombie virus is about to embark on its most dangerous experiment yet. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Milla Jovovich, Oded Fehr and Ali Larter.

10.35 Film: Blade II. (2002) The vampire slayer teams up with his enemies to battle mutants preying on both the living and the undead. Fantasy action thriller sequel, with Wesley Snipes and Kris Kristofferson.

12.45 SuperCasino. **3.10 Classic Car Rescue.** (R) **4.00 House Doctor.** (R) **4.25 Make It Big.** (R) **4.50 The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.00 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00 Top Gear.** **8.00 The World Cup's 50 Greatest Moments.** **10.00 In the Flesh.** **11.00 Family Guy.** **11.45 American Dad!** **12.30 Sweet the Small Stuff.** **1.00 Jonah from Tonga.** **1.25 In the Flesh.** **2.25 Sweet the Small Stuff.** **2.55 In the Flesh.** **3.55 Close**

BBC Four **7.00 Cleopatra: Portrait of a Killer.** **8.00 The Town That Loves Books.** **BBC Arts** at Hay. **9.00 Dylan Thomas: A Poet's Guide.** **10.00 Under Milk Wood in Pictures:** Peter Blake Does Dylan. **10.30 Under Milk Wood.** **11.30 Troubadours: The Rise of the Singer-Songwriter.** **12.55 Searching for Sugar Man.** **Storyville 2.15 Sounds of the 70s 2 Troubadours - Peaceful Easy Feeling.** **2.45 Dylan Thomas: A Poet's Guide.** **3.45 Close**

ITV2 **11.00 You've Been Framed!** **11.35 Film: Twister.** (1996) **1.45 Film: Dungeons and Dragons.** (2000) **3.55 Britain's Got Talent.** **5.25 Britain's Got Talent Results.** **5.50 Britain's Got Talent.** **7.05 Film: Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi.** (1983) **10.00 Viral Tap.** **10.50 Film: Something Borrowed.** (2011) **1.05 Viral Tap.** **1.45 The Vampire Diaries.** **2.30 Life's Funniest Moments.** **2.50 Teleshopping.** **5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen**

ITV3 **11.35 Agatha Christie's Marple.** **1.40 Rosemary & Thyme.** **2.45 Live French Open Tennis.** The middle Sunday of the Grand Slam at Roland Garros, Paris. **8.00 Lewis.** **9.00 Film: The Hours.** (2002) **12.25 William and Mary.** **1.30 Lewis.** **3.25 ITV3 Nightscreen.** **4.00 Emmerdale.**

ITV4 **3.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket.** **7.25 Highway Patrol.** **7.55 French Open Tennis.** **9.00 TT 2014.** **10.50 Film: TT: Closer to the Edge.** (2011) **12.10 The Undrillables.** **1.15 TT 2014.** **2.15 Warren United.** **2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen.** **3.00 Teleshopping.** **3.30 The Store.**

E4 **4.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **5.00 The Tomorrow People.** **6.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine.** **6.30 The Big Bang Theory.** **7.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **8.00 Film: Stardust.** (2007) **10.35 The Inbetweeners.** **11.40 The Big Bang Theory.** **12.35 Rude Tube: Epic Fails.** **1.35 Troy.** **2.35 Rules of Engagement.** **3.20 2 Broke Girls.** **3.45 Holyoaks.**

Film4 **11.00 George.** (1955) **1.00 Home Alone.** (1997) **3.00 Inkheart.** (2008) **5.05 Meet Dave.** (2008) **6.55 The Wedding Planner.** (2001) **9.00 Die Hard 4.** (2007) **11.30 Conviction.** (2010) **1.35 Looking for Eric.** (2009) **3.55 Close**

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Film Choices

MONDAY
The Devil's Advocate, Channel 5, 11pm
A hotshot lawyer is lured away from his provincial practice to work for a powerful big-city law firm. However, he gradually comes to realise that his charismatic new boss is none other than Satan himself, who has a special plan in mind for the ambitious attorney. Supernatural thriller, starring Al Pacino. (1997)

TUESDAY
Daylight, ITV, 10.35pm
A devastating explosion in the New Jersey Tunnel causes a horrific pile-up, trapping a group of motorists underground. A former emergency worker witnesses the blast and heads in to guide the handful of survivors to safety before the waters of the Hudson river above them break through and flood the tunnel. Disaster movie, starring Sylvester Stallone, Amy Brenneman, Viggo Mortensen and Claire Bloom. (1996)

Swingers, BBC1, 11.50pm
Struggling actor Mike's confidence is shattered when his girlfriend breaks up with him. His charismatic friend Trent refuses to let him wallow in self pity, and hurls the lovesick Mike into the Hollywood singles scene in the hope of him acquiring some new female company and getting his self-esteem back. Comedy, starring Jon Favreau and Vince Vaughn. (1996)



The Devil's Advocate, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

WEDNESDAY
The Other Man, BBC1, 11.15pm
A husband learns his wife is having an affair when he discovers provocative photos of her with another man. He resolves to track down her lover and exact his revenge but when he confronts the man about his misdeeds, he instead strikes up an unlikely friendship, making him question whether he should continue with his vengeful scheme. Drama, starring Liam Neeson, Antonio Banderas and Laura Linney. (2008)

THURSDAY
The Perfect Assistant, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman becomes obsessively infatuated with her boss, but does not act on her desires out of respect for his family. However, when his wife becomes seriously ill, she sees an opportunity to murder her, so the object of her affection will be available. Thriller, starring Josie Davis, Chris Potter and Sophie Gendron. (2008)

FRIDAY
Cape Fear, ITV, 10.35pm
A psychopathic rapist is released from prison and plots revenge on the defence attorney he blames for his imprisonment. Thriller remake, starring Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, Jessica Lange, Juliette Lewis and Gregory Peck. (1991)

Pick of the Week

Comedians do their bit for a worthy cause

It's that time of the year again, when the great and the good of the comedy world gather at London's O2 to perform in front of a packed audience while raising money for the Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

Actually, the gig itself took place on May 16, with tickets snapped up weeks in advance, despite some of them costing a rather lofty £150. Mind you, the sheer number of outstanding performers on view means that you could argue it was very good value.

So if you weren't lucky enough to get one, couldn't afford it, or it was too far to travel, fret not because Channel 4 is broadcasting the show in its entirety.

Those included in the line-up are Aisling Bea, Alan Carr, Jack Dee, Jason Byrne, Jason Manford, Jo Brand, Jon Richardson, John Bishop, Jonathan Ross, Josh Widdicombe, Kevin Bridges, Lee Evans, Michael McIntyre, Paddy McGuinness, Paul Chowdhry, Sean Lock, Seann Walsh and Warwick Davis.

Also featured are Adam Hills, who's fast becoming the face of Channel 4

thanks to his series The Last Leg and hosting celebrity versions of Fifteen to One (another of which can be seen on Friday), and Kerry Goddman, who's well known for her starring role as Hannah in Ricky Gervais's kind-hearted comedy drama Derek.

While we're all guffawing at their on-stage antics, it's easy to forget the good cause the entertainers are raising money for.

According to the charity's website, funds from the event will go towards a brand-new operating theatre at the hospital that will aid surgeons in their efforts to treat an increased number of children with rare and often life-threatening conditions.

So far, the previous four Comedy Galas have raised an impressive £2.5million, for which Tim Johnson, Chief Executive of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, is very grateful.

"Around one in three inpatients at Great Ormond Street Hospital will have surgery at some point during their stay so it's vital for us to have modern, world-class surgical facilities," says Johnson. "The money

raised by Channel 4's Comedy Gala is helping us make a real difference for patients and families from across the UK."

This year's gala is particularly poignant because it's dedicated to the memory of Addison Cresswell, who came up with the idea for the show.

Cresswell was a tour de force in the comedy world, acting as the agent for many of those appearing at the Gala, including Brand, Ross and Dee.

He died suddenly of a heart attack in December last year, after which a spokesman said: "Addison leaves behind a proud legacy in his tireless charity work, initiating and organising the annual Channel 4 Comedy Gala in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital."

"It was his dearest wish to raise enough to fund the opening of a brand-new wing of the hospital, a goal that is now in sight."

It's fitting that many of those whose careers he gave at least a nudge to over the years are giving up their time to help a worthy cause that was so close to his heart.



Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2014, Thursday, Channel 4, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Secret Life of Cats
ITV, 9pm

An insight into the world of the much-loved pet, using new filming techniques to uncover the qualities possessed by every cat, from pedigree breeds to ordinary household moggies. The documentary, narrated by Martin Clunes, reveals how these animals employ acute senses and excellent balance to explore their surroundings, and tells some remarkable stories, from the surprising relationship between a blind Labrador and his feline friend, to the cat that survived falling from a 19th-floor flat. Secret Life of Babies is tomorrow at 9pm.

TUESDAY
Quads: Our First Year
ITV, 8pm

After nearly four years of trying for a baby, Julian and Sharon Turner thought they might never conceive, but on their final attempt at IVF two implanted embryos split, giving them two sets of identical twins – two boys and two girls – an event calculated at odds of 70 million to one. This documentary follows the quadruplets' hectic first 12 months, from the precarious early weeks – born three months premature – through the demands of round-the-clock care, to the siblings' birthday celebrations.

Secret Life of Babies
ITV, 9pm

Following on from last night's Secret Life of Cats, Martin Clunes narrates this revealing insight into

the world of infants. But which one's better? Hang on, Harry Hill already tried to find that out on TV Burp years ago... Instead, this documentary uses scientific research to reveal what it's like to be a baby from their perspective. Their lives are confusing enough, so when the programme then places them in a string of unusual situations, from experiencing 100-metre heights to towering over miniature buildings, the babies' reactions are fascinating. There's also some inspiring personal stories, including the tale of the six-month-old who was blown off a pier in his pushchair – and, incredibly, lived to tell (well, gurgle) the tale.

WEDNESDAY
Live International Football
ITV, 7.30pm

The build-up to England's World Cup campaign continues with this friendly against Ecuador, which represents the penultimate match before Roy Hodgson's men take to the field for their Group D opener against Italy in 10 days' time. The fixture takes place at the Sunlife Stadium in Miami, as England look to acclimatise to an increase in temperature and humidity that is likely to be such a factor in Brazil. Ecuador are a largely unknown quantity for England, with the nations having met on just two occasions, the last of which was in the 2006 World Cup when a David Beckham goal was all that separated the sides, allowing England to progress to the quarter-finals.

The McCanns and the Conman
Channel 5, 9pm

The shocked eyes of the world turned to Portugal in May of 2007, when four-year-old Madeleine McCann disappeared from her hotel room, as her parents had dinner a few metres away. This one-off documentary takes a look at Operation Omega, the secret private investigation in 2008 to find the little girl. The investigation was set up by security consultant Kevin Halligen, but as it went on, it came to light that

Halligen was not a spy at all – instead he was one of the world's most audacious conmen. But that's not to take away from the operation – significant information and leads uncovered from Omega have actually gone on to form part of the current Scotland Yard inquiry to find out what happened to Madeleine.

THURSDAY
Big Brother: Power Trip
Live Launch
Channel 5, 9pm

New series. Emma Willis hosts the first of

two launch editions as the fly-on-the-wall reality show returns for its 15th season, ushering in another diverse group of fame-seeking individuals who have been chosen to spend their summer invading the nation's living rooms. Expect the usual selection of likely lads, would-be Wags and outsiders who will be stepping into a house that has undergone a complete redesign, with futuristic stark open spaces and sleek clean lines. As ever, multiple cameras will be catching the housemates' every word and move – and as this year's theme suggests, 'power' is all-important. But who will be in charge? That remains to be revealed.

FRIDAY
Farewell Tina
ITV, 8pm

She had the brightest smile and the deepest tan in Weatherfield, but sadly barmaid Tina McIntyre is no longer around to bring a little sunshine to our screens. The Coronation Street character met a sticky end this week, but while soap fans try to come to terms with her loss, this documentary tells the story of Tina's alter ego, actress Michelle Keegan. We get to see just how perfect she was for the part as Michelle watches her 2007 audition tape for the first time.

D-Day 70: The Heroes Return
BBC2, 8pm
Huw Edwards presents highlights of today's events from Normandy commemorating the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings by Allied troops. Normandy '44: The Battle Beyond D-Day can be seen at 9.30pm.



Farewell Tina, Friday, ITV, 8pm

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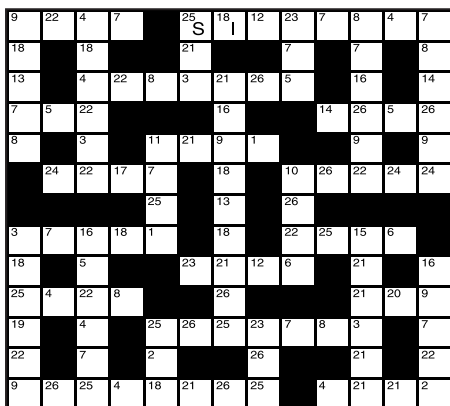
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

T	U	J	C	A	W	M	S	I	H	B	V	Q
G	E	R	P	K	Y	O	D	F	Z	X	N	L

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

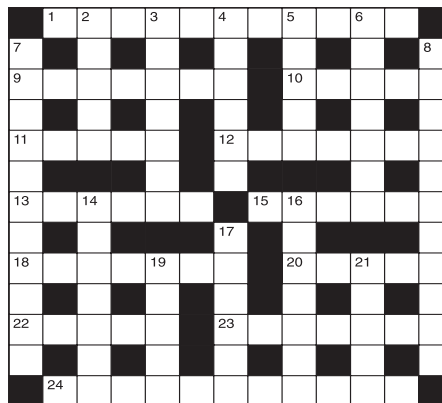
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. It has been burned lately by students (8,3)
9. No clear remedy for the old boy (7)
10. A striker in a game (5)
11. Go into some apparently open terms (5)
12. Singer shows there's nothing in turning the corner (7)
13. Officer commanding worship is mystic (6)
15. Stick to commercial in this place (6)
18. Urge to act miles up (7)
20. Heather I care about (5)
22. Listened to egg-head in difficult surroundings (5)
23. The actors were first to have moved on the board (7)
24. Angriest took food to excess (11)

Down

2. Let in as a member of the group (5)
3. There's no side to him, of course (7)
4. Sounds like a musical country (6)
5. The time of the bright emporium (5)
6. Concentrated tennis out East (7)
7. Leave the darkness to be revealed (4,2,5)
8. Do they make the workers under them pay? (6,5)
14. Tip a can for the officer (7)
16. Part of the bedroom furniture? No! (7)
17. Do drinkers find it stormy? (6)
19. 50 on the rim of the shelf (5)
21. At home with a tenant in coastal feature (5)



Quick Clues:

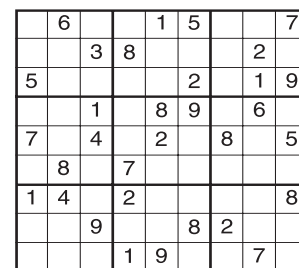
Across

1. Destroying (11)
9. Airman (7)
10. Unaccompanied (5)
11. Kingly (5)
12. Draw (7)
13. Renounce (6)
15. Result (6)
18. Erase (7)
20. Unfeeling (5)
22. Change (5)
23. Building (7)
24. Discipline (11)

Down

2. Looking at (5)
3. Nominal (7)
4. Illusory (6)
5. Pamphlet (5)
6. Profane (7)
7. Road (11)
8. Abstainer (11)
14. Zeus (7)
16. Clique (7)
17. Annul (6)
19. Cherish (5)
21. Parts (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	3	9	7	8	5	4	2	6
4	6	5	3	1	2	7	8	9
2	7	8	4	9	6	5	1	3
9	4	1	2	7	3	8	6	5
8	2	6	9	5	4	3	7	1
7	5	3	1	6	8	2	5	4
6	1	4	8	3	7	9	5	2
5	8	2	6	4	9	1	3	7
3	9	7	5	2	1	6	4	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Outclass; 5 Maid; 9 Mean; 10 Magazine; 11 Lemon; 12 Lurking; 13 As weak as water; 18 Floodlit; 19 Aids; 20 Begonia; 21 Melon; 22 Ends; 23 Aspirate. Down: 2 Useless; 3 Console; 4 Small capitals; 6 Animate; 7 Dredger; 8 Marrow; 13 Affable; 14 Wronged; 15 Ardent; 16 Amateur; 17 Endmost. QUICK - Across: 1 Gracious; 5 Flag; 9 Anon; 10 Disclosure; 11 Bower; 12 Turnout; 13 Inadvertently; 18 Spacious; 19 Gone; 20 August; 21 Debar; 22 Tome; 23 Addition. Down: 2 Run-down; 3 Contend; 4 Uninterrupted; 6 Lookout; 7 Greatly; 8 Scarce; 13 Instant; 14 Amalgam; 15 Veiled; 16 Neglect; 17 Long ago.

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Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night Theatre from £149.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵

Dine and Dance from £149.⁹⁵
Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Theatre Showstopper from £209.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply for all breaks

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go expressandstar.com/starextratavel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

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QUINTON, Ridgacre Lane £750 pcm - Fees
Beautifully redecorated 3 bed detached house, convenient for the number 9 bus into Birmingham. This property will not last long and features 2 doubles and 1 single bedroom, 2 reception rooms, office room, large kitchen diner with fridge freezer, brand new bathroom with shower, driveway for 1 car, large rear and side garden. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Wesley Avenue £625 pcm - Fees
We are pleased to offer this traditional 3 bedroom semi detached property located in a cul de sac position & close to local amenities. The property benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. Entrance hall, good size lounge, excellent kitchen/diner with a fridge/freezer, 3 bedrooms and family bathroom with separate corner shower, downstairs WC (Outside). There is off road parking for 2 cars and front and rear gardens. Available early June. EPC: D



MERRY HILL, Madison Avenue £595 pcm - Fees
Flexible accommodation. A spacious unfurnished modern townhouse, within walking distance of Merry Hill shopping centre, featuring kitchen, downstairs WC, dining room/study, lounge, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master en-suite shower room, allocated parking space. No Garden. A parking permit is required. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Green Lane £550 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished end of terraced property close to all amenities featuring 3 double bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, downstairs WC, new upstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing throughout, gas central heating, off-road secure parking space at rear of property. EPC: TBC



DUDLEY, Gammage Street £525 pcm - Fees
Ideal for Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley Town Centre and transport links. This end terraced 2 bedroom property in the process of being painted and updated comprising of entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, rear garden with patio area, on road parking, available early June. EPC: F



QUARRY BANK, Charles Road £495 pcm - Fees
Within walking distance to Quarry Bank shops and bus links. This property is also close by to Cradley Heath Train Station and Merry Hill. This home features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, large fitted dining kitchen, bathroom with shower, paved driveway and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Coppice Road £450 pcm - Fees
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! A 2 double bedroom semi-detached house on the Timberlee Estate. This house comprises of a front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, fitted wardrobes in the master bedroom, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Tay Grove £695 pcm - Fees
Beautifully presented in the sought after location of Hurst Green. This freshly decorated semi detached house features a large through lounge, modern kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, large rear garden, driveway parking for 2 cars and a garage. EPC: TBC



BEARWOOD, St Marys Road £615 pcm - Fees
A 2 bedroom furnished to suit mid terraced house located in this very popular area of Bearwood. The property offers spacious accommodation with 2 reception rooms, kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms. Private rear garden. On road parking. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Cherry Orchard Avenue £575 pcm - Fees
Situating in a well sought after location of Halesowen. This well presented 2 bedroom semi detached house features 1 double and 1 large single bedroom, fitted kitchen with dining area, great size lounge, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking, garage to rear, front and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane £530 pcm - Fees
A superb fully re-furnished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Green Lane £525 pcm - Fees
Traditional terraced house close to Blackheath and not far from the train station. This great house features 3 good size bedrooms, fitted breakfast kitchen, downstairs modern bathroom with shower, 2 beautiful reception rooms. Benefits include large garden. On road parking. Beautifully presented. Must be viewed. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close £485 pcm - Fees
This lovely part furnished second floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development, comprising of 2 bedrooms, 1 with wardrobes, lounge with brown 'L' shape sofa, fitted kitchen with small fridge, gas central heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking, and communal garden. EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road £450 pcm - Fees
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! Located on this very popular Timberlee Estate and ideally situated for local schools and transport links. Comprising 1 double and 2 single bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, tiered rear garden. On road parking. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road £650 pcm - Fees
This detached house in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House £595 pcm - Fees
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! Luxury living in Hayley Green. This luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Mapletree Lane £500 pcm - Fees
A stunning end of terrace in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This massive house has had a complete refurbishment and features 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, downstairs family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, small rear garden. A property not to be missed! EPC: TBC



BARTLEY GREEN, Wolverley Road £525 pcm - Fees
A spacious mid terraced house in a sought after location and close to local shops. Featuring a fitted breakfast kitchen, through lounge/dining room, 3 good size bedrooms. Benefits include rear garden. Convenient location for Birmingham. On road parking. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Farm Road £499 pcm - Fees
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! Refurbished to a very good standard and located on a popular estate. This lovely 2 double bedroom house features 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, covered storage area to the rear, modern bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road £475 pcm - Fees
Not to missed is this 1 bedroom ground floor flat which has just undergone a full refurbishment. Standing in its own grounds within a detached house with parking for 2 cars this unique property comprises of lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen, white bathroom suite with shower & 1 double bedroom, outside rear garden. Available now. EPC: C



BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive £425 pcm - Fees
Located a few minutes from Brierley Hill and Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This lovely 1 bedroom modern end-terraced house available unfurnished or part furnished to suit comprising of: Open plan lounge/kitchen with appliances, bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom, allocated parking. Available early June. EPC: E

Property

A delightfully-presented home of three storeys



THIS is a beautifully appointed and superbly presented and decorated three bedroomed house in Coseley.

The three storey home, 14 Strathern Drive, Hurst Hill, Coseley is in a delightful cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Roden Boydell at £147,950. It has some double glazing and gas central heating, a hall, guest cloakroom, a first floor lounge with a contemporary gas fire, open plan dining kitchen, dining area and patio doors to the garden. There are three bedrooms, a bathroom, a utility room and a garage. Call 01902 881188 or go to www.rodenboydell.com



A beautifully-presented two-bedroomed house



BEAUTIFULLY presented and conveniently positioned, 15 Larksfield Mews, Amblecote, Brierley Hill is a two bedroomed town house in a pleasant cul-de-sac.

Ideal for a first time buyer or young family, it is for sale through Jon Stanier at £129,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall, an attractive lounge with a living flame effect gas fire, a stylish dining kitchen with an oven and hob, light wood units and contrasting working surfaces and splash-back tiling, two bedrooms (master en-suite) and a fitted house bathroom

There is a pleasant lawned rear garden and parking at the front.

For further information contact Jon Stanier on 01384 778777 or visit www.jonstanier.co.uk



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Muirfield Crescent, Tividale



EPC D

£180,000

Three bedroom link detached property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, study, conservatory, kitchen, bathroom, garden and garage.

Thelma Road, Tipton



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EPC D

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Semi detached four bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, rear garden and garage.

Callaghan Drive, Tividale



EPC C

£150,000

Modern end terraced three bedroom town house comprising lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, master with en-suite, rear garden and garage.

Sandfield Grove, Dudley



EPC E

Offers Over £100,000

Link semi detached two bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, upstairs family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Orchard Grove, Dudley



Help to Buy
AVAILABLE

EPC C

Offers over £90,000

Ground floor two bedroom flat briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Bryan Budd Close, Rowley Regis



Help to Buy
AVAILABLE

EPC C

£135,000

Modern semi detached property comprises lounge, kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms, rear garden and parking space. Halesowen

Public Notice



EPC E

£380,000

50 Mackenzie Road, Birmingham, B11 4EL. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £415,000.00. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC Rating (E)

Foxlea Road, Halesowen



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Midhill Drive, Rowley Regis



NEW

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Awaiting EPC

Newbury Lane, Oldbury



NEW

Awaiting EPC

£130,000

This double fronted semi detached house is convenient for many local amenities. Comprising lounge, three bedrooms and garage. Halesowen

Green Lane, Halesowen



Help to Buy
AVAILABLE

EPC D

£75,000

This traditional mid terraced property comprises lounge, three bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen.



£220,000

This mucklow style property situated in a premium location comprises lounge, three bedrooms and garage. Halesowen



£170,000

This detached house is situated on a popular estate comprises lounge, three bedrooms, family bathroom and gardens. Halesowen

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Renault hits back in style

By Graham Breeze

The new Megane Coupe is likely to play a major part in completing the rescue of the ailing Renault brand.

It's not been a good time in Renault land of late but the GT Line Tom Tom 1.5 dCi is a real example of the company striking back with a flash of real style.

So how do you tell it's a GT Line model? At glance the sporting character of the Tom Tom versions is evident by the lower ride height – reduced by 12mm compared to standard models in the range.

The GT Line Megane has sporty looks and the diesel engine on the test car helped provide competitive performance with fantastic economy.

At the front there is a special bumper design with a reshaped central air intake.

Foglamps are housed in striking, dark chrome recesses either side of the bumper and there are black headlamp masks. It's different from behind too. The bumper has a lower section finished in the body colour, which incorporates an aerodynamic diffuser.

The lowered suspension gives the Coupe a firm ride though, and I expected a bit more feedback and response from the steering.

If you are looking to compare specs against main rivals such as Vauxhall Astra GTC and Volkswagen Scirocco you'll find the Megane a cheaper buy, but you might lose out when it comes to trading in.

The Coupe benefits from ABS with EBD brake assist, ASR traction control, Bluetooth, Tom Tom live satellite navigation, cruise control a stability control system.

The GT Line on test picked up rear parking sensors, aluminium sport pedals, Renaultsport styling leather steering wheel and seats, 17inch alloy wheels, tinted rear



The GT Line Megane has sport looks and the diesel engine on the test car helped provide competitive performance

windows. A leather pack with heated and height adjustable seats are an extra £1,250 but probably worth the money because this is a low car and finding the right individual seating position takes a little time.

There's plenty of space up front, but a sloping roofline means rear seat space headroom is limited and legroom hard to find. But there is a well-shaped and spacious boot which just passes the gold club test and is more than capable of carrying normal luggage loads.

There's a top speed of 118mph but it takes the 1.5 diesel 12.1 seconds to reach 62mph - I expected better.

But it's running costs that are this Renault stand out from the crowd with combined fuel figures of over 80 miles to the gallon.

A week's normal motoring normally costs me close on a tank of fuel - the Megane was still above half full and I was only emitting 90g/km of CO2 emissions.

As always Renault put a high value on safety and this model comes with front, side and curtain airbags as standard and front seat airbags which are designed to stop you slipping under the seatbelts in a crash.

Cost: £22,445.

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Double success for Fiat

Trade Van Driver, the UK's top van magazine for small business users, has named the Fiat Professional line-up 'Best Trade Van Range' in the Trade Van Driver Awards.

The magazine, which is the only publication to cater specifically for owner-drivers and small fleet operators, also named the Fiat Doblo Work Up as the 'Best Small Pick Up' in the 2014 awards.

Both trophies were presented to

Sebastiano Fedrigo, director, Fiat Professional UK, by Matthew Eisenegger, editor of Trade Van Driver, at the 2014 Commercial Vehicle show, at The NEC Birmingham.

Adjudicated not only by a team of expert TVD journalists but also by a panel of readers who use light commercial vehicles as an integral part of their businesses, the awards offer a true reflection of the sentiments of those customers who use their commercial vehicles day to day.

Commenting on the Fiat Professional

range, the panel noted: "The needs of trade users are many and varied, and Fiat Professional has taken massive strides in the past few years towards fulfilling all those requirements. Fiat Professional offers a superb range of models and has a real 'can do' attitude towards trade buyers."

Commenting on the second successive win for the Fiat Doblo Work Up, the jury noted that since winning last year "...no-one has come up with a better alternative."

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55 C4 1.6 SX Auto Blue 67k	£2,995	07 Scenic 1.6 Priv Auto Gold 55k	£3,295
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Positive feedback for Sirus

West Midlands firm Sirus Automotive, a leading accessible-vehicle conversion specialist, experienced high inquiry levels at Naidex, the largest UK annual health-care/disability exhibition, regarding its upfront wheelchair passenger solutions and new 'We-Can Flex' car.

Sirus, based in Wednesbury, is highly respected in the mobility sector for its high-quality car adaptations which allow wheelchair passengers to travel upfront alongside the driver.

Building on this heritage and to offer more practicality to families, Sirus

Automotive has launched the We-Can Flex, which is designed for wheelchair users who prefer to travel in the rear of a vehicle.

Based on the Volkswagen Caddy, this vehicle offers the ideal seating layout for a family, as the adult or child with a disability can still travel in close proximity with fellow passengers. When the wheelchair user does not need to travel, the interior can be reconfigured back to a standard five-seater car.

Simon Pearson, Sirus Automotive managing director said: "We have been delighted with the inquiry levels received at Naidex regarding our new We-Can Flex and existing upfront wheelchair passenger vehicles.

"Visitors to the Sirus stand were extremely impressed with the flexibility and practicality which all our cars provide. We believe this latest Sirus wheelchair-accessible car, the We-Can Flex, will once again provide significant lifestyle benefits and travel convenience for many individuals living with restricted mobility."

Showcased alongside the new We-Can Flex, Sirus also exhibited a selection of adapted WAV models from its established range.

Pictured: Tina Hawthorn, Sirus customer service; Vicky Crees, marketing and PR manager; Michell Angell, warranty co-ordinator; Russell Ven-til, co-director; Mike Perry and Matt Watts, mobility advisors.

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<p>05/55 Vauxhall Tigra 1.4 Sport Convertible only 28770 miles Black, CD Player, E/Roof £3995 / £28 Per Week</p>	<p>03/53 Mini 1.6 Cooper 69k, Red, White Alloys, Half Leather, Air Con, CD Player £3995 / £41 Per Week</p>
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MG's new supermini looks like a good choice

By David Banner

The MG badge is back. We could argue it came back over 18 months ago with MG6, but that is a large saloon vehicle, whereas the MG3 is attempting to put back a sense of style, bit of fun and certainly affordability into the marketplace.

The MG3 is pitched into the important supermini category, and it should hold its head in this company.

It has a reasonably economical engine, high levels of specification, and it does not look too out of place in the car park.

And one of the big plusses with the MG is its pricing structure.

There are four derivatives and the entry level starts at a mere £8,399, even the top specification is priced at just £9999, and this has to be superb value for money, assuming the vehicle lives up to expectations.

The new MG3 is mostly built in China by MG's new owners, SAIC, the final assembly takes place in the UK. The vehicle was designed and styled in the UK, where over 300 engineers and designers are employed to produce vehicles suitable for the UK and European market, and certainly the ride and handling have been honed to perfection for our bumpy roads.

It is a delight to see the octagonal badge back on the bonnet and also displayed on the cylinder head cover in the engine bay.

The whole range is powered by a single 1.5-litre engine which produces 105ps. There have been complaints the engine lacks power and is a lethargic. I take the viewpoint this is an engine which needs to be revved.

It is not an engine which produces a lot of torque at low speed, but when you rev it and get the needle above 3,000 revs, then it starts to reward you.

Delight

The five-speed gearbox was a delight to operate, and even allowing for the lack of torque, it was not really problematic to change gear frequently to make progress. A top speed of 108 mph and 0-60mph in 10.4 seconds is achievable.

The economics of running the vehicle are ones of not very high mpg figures. The manufacturer suggests 48-plus should be available, I managed to achieve 40mpg over a varied 4,000 miles whilst in ownership of the vehicle.

The CO2 emissions at 136 g/km are not going to place the MG3 in the ultra cheap Vehicle Excise Duty category and that is a shame.

The big feature for me, however, is the huge amount of interior space. If a small supermini is your choice but you need to move four adults, five at a push, then you seriously need to check out the MG3.

My 6ft-plus frame in the driver's seat still enabled a 6ft-plus person to sit behind me, with ample amounts of leg, head and shoulder room. This really is worth a couple of extra ticks on your shopping list. The boot space was adequate but not overly generous.

The interior has sadly followed the fashion of today with lots of black plastic and a very dark overall look. However, there was some wonderful contrasting red stitching on the steering wheel and on the superb sport-type seats.

The vehicle, from a driver's perspective, was not overly complicated – just radio controls contained on the steering wheel, and two stalks on the steering column, one for the wipers and combined computer and one for the lights and indicators.

There was a cubby-hole on the dashboard, hidden behind a roller cover. The kind people at MG had fitted as an afterthought, an iPad connection. This to me was a bit of a waste of money and wasted space.

Extensively

Four trim levels are available, my test car was the 3 FORM Sport and this was extensively equipped. It included air conditioning, the driver and passenger's wing mirrors are electronically adjustable and heated, and in addition there was a DAB radio and a Bluetooth facility to either stream in your music or telephone.

Safety has not been overlooked and there are a plethora of airbags including driver and passenger, side and curtain airbags.

The MG is also equipped with an anti-lock braking system and a stability control. One feature which works quite nicely is the hill-hold control.

MG is hopeful of selling 2,000 to 2,500 of the MG3 and I can see no reason why this target should not be achieved, certainly the pricing structure MG has introduced makes this particular derivative a very attractive option.

I just hope against hope that the Chinese owners of MG will start very soon to re-introduce a two-seater sports car, which the market is just crying out for.

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4

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MINI COOPER S silver, 03 reg, twin sun roofs, sat nav, xenons, heated leather, C/C, spots, cruise control, alloys, SH, £2,675. 07913 025392.

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4X4

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4X4

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NISSAN ALMERA S 03 reg, silver, full MoT, Taxed, PAS, E/W, CD, £475. 07804 168151.

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PEUGEOT 206LX, automatic, 2002, 5 door, grey, petrol, tax, MoT May 2015, £795. 07974 247207.

PEUGEOT 306 MERIDIAN 1999, 1.4 petrol, 96,300 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, fsh, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, tax, stereo, good condition! **£700 ono. 07854 442626.**

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HONDA VISION Scooter, 50cc, 2012, tax June, very good condition, cost £1700, sell £800 ono. 07440 089063.

TRIUMPH SPRINT RS, 955 cc, t & t, new tyres, 2000, service holders handbook, 2 keys, 41k, excellent cond, £1,700 ono. 01384 250253.Mr Rawlings

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Marc: I'm leaving Villa with head high

MARC ALBRIGHTON is leaving Villa with "his head held high" after completing his switch to Leicester.

The winger has signed a four-year contract at the Premier League new-boys following his release from the claret and blues recently.

Boss Paul Lambert had previously been confident of securing Albrighton but the uncertainty surrounding the up-for-sale club killed any deal.

The 24-year-old came up through the ranks, making 101 appearances since his debut in 2009, and believes he proved himself at Villa Park.

He said: "It was a great 16 years for me at Villa and I had some really wonderful times there that will stay with me forever."

"I'm coming away now with my head held high and really looking forward to this fresh challenge with Leicester. I just can't wait to get going."

Assistant manager Ian Culverhouse has been dismissed after an internal investigation. He follows head of football operations Gary Karsa out of Villa with Paul Lambert now searching for two new back-room staff.

The pair had been suspended since April.

Wrestler wins final of contest

AN international wrestler who trains at Wolverhampton club has added another title to his impressive list of wins.

Chinu Singh, aged 26, who trains at Wolverhampton Wrestling Club which is part of the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple complex on Cannock Road, won the British Senior Wrestling Championship in 125kg freestyle.

Singh from Oldbury, who does Olympic freestyle wrestling, beat M Khan in the finals at English Institute of Sports, Sheffield on Sunday May 11.

This is the English Champion's seventh British championship. Singh also wrestles for England and Great Britain.

Bronze medal delight for Kristian



Kristian Thomas, left, and Sam Oldham

KRISTIAN THOMAS claimed individual bronze to add to team silver at the European Gymnastics Championships in Sofia.

Thomas recovered from the disappointment of Britain losing their team title on Saturday by claiming a bronze medal in the high bar.

Max Whitlock saw off the challenge of Olympic pommel horse champion Krisztian Berki to win gold on the apparatus.

Thomas was satisfied with bronze after a tough final which saw one of the favourites, Germany's Fabian Hambuchen, fall and fail to continue his routine.

Gymnastics

"It was pretty tense so to come out with the bronze medal – my first individual European medal – is fantastic," said 25-year-old Thomas, who is from Wolverhampton and trains at Earls Gymnastics Club in Halesowen. "My routine wasn't perfect but my experience got me through. We are all so well prepared and know how to fight for the medals and that's what I did."

Whitlock, who claimed an Olympic bronze behind silver medallist Louis Smith

at London 2012, scored 16.166 – which would have eclipsed Berki's Olympic gold medal-winning mark by a tenth of a point.

The 21-year-old Hemel Hempstead-born gymnast was the sixth to compete on the apparatus and set an unassailable target after surpassing Hungarian Berki's score of 15.633.

Meanwhile, Dan Purvis won a bronze medal in the floor final behind Russia's Denis Ablyazin and Greece's Elfetherios Kosmidis with a routine of 15.400. Whitlock finished in fifth place with 15.333. Sam Oldham won his second silver medal

Ibe's hat-trick adds to England's six appeal

England U-19s 6 Montenegro 0

MUCH has been made of the conditions facing England's senior side in Brazil this summer.

On Saturday, their under-19 counterparts experienced the best and very worst the Midlands has to offer when they took on Montenegro at Walsall's Banks's Stadium.

But whether in sunshine or in torrential rain, England were simply too strong for their opponents as they cruised to a 6-0 victory in the first game of the European Championship Elite Round thanks to Jordan Ibe's superb hat-trick.

Chelsea's Lewis Baker, from the spot, and Southampton's Sam Gallagher were also on the mark, while the finest strike of the bunch came from Aston Villa's Callum Robinson deep into stoppage time.

It was all entertaining fare for the 1,897 who turned out to watch and perhaps a sign of brighter times to come for followers of the Three Lions – should any of these youngsters make the grade.

"We have some really good forward players," said head coach Noel Blake afterwards.

Ibe's fine opener came just as the heaviest downpour was easing off. The Liverpool youngster, who spent last season on loan at Blues, ran 25 yards across goal with the ball before letting fly from just inside the area, his shot taking a deflection on its way into the bottom corner.

The torrential rain was back for the start of the

Football

second half but it was a different storm which hit Montenegro, as England struck four times in 12 minutes to end the game as a contest.

Josh Murphy was first to find the target on 52 minutes when he tumbled under Licina's challenge.

The Montenegro stopper correctly guessed Baker would send the spot-kick to his left but it was too quick and well-placed for him to do anything about it.

Five minutes later Ibe had his second, stroking home Matthew Targett's cross first time after he had been played in on the left by Murphy.

Licina, who had so brilliantly denied Gallagher earlier in the game, then presented the striker with the fourth on a plate as he dropped a routine cross at his feet before Ibe side-footed home Murphy's cross – after a fine run – to make it five with still 25 minutes on the clock.

Montenegro didn't give up and Marko Llinic fizzed a free-kick over the bar, while Walton was forced into his only serious save when he tipped over Zarko Grbovic's drive.

Last-minute goal seals Hunt Cup victory



Victorious Tivdale celebrate their JW HuntCup win at Molineux after beating Sporting Khalsa FC 3-2

TWO late goals gave Tivdale a trophy double as they clinched the JW Hunt Cup in dramatic fashion at Molineux.

Sporting Khalsa had made the Midland Alliance champions pay for failing to make the most of a string of good chances and led 2-1 with six minutes to go.

But Karl Edwards managed to create an opportunity for himself in a crowded penalty area to fire in

an equaliser. Extra time seemed certain as the last of four minutes' added time arrived but after Khalsa keeper Mariusz Kiesel had turned a Ryan Winwood drive for a corner, the resultant kick saw the ball find its way to substitute Sam Williams who drilled in the winning goal.

Edwards had fired Tivdale in front after six minutes from a rebound when a Mark Smith header was blocked on the line.

Mark Habbershaw strode onto a through ball to hammer Khalsa level on 35 minutes.

Tivdale must have thought it was not their night when on the hour Liam Hughes scored from the spot after left-back Hayden Williams had been sent sprawling by Luke Paskin.

And there was more drama as Khalsa's Jon Cordy was sent off in the aftermath of the winning goal as Tivdale players celebrated.

Benteke is not for sale says Lambert

PAUL LAMBERT has vowed he will not sell Christian Benteke and ruled out a Villa fire sale.

The boss will resist all attempts from clubs to sign the claret and blues' stars but is wary others could cash in on Villa's unsettled situation.

Benteke is currently out for at least another five months with an Achilles injury while Fabian Delph and Ron Vlaar only have a year left on their contracts.

But Lambert is determined to hold onto Villa's stars to give them a fighting chance while the club searches for a new owner.

He said: "I think you'll still have the final say with who came and who went. You would have that on your side. I don't visualise anyone leaving without my permission, that's fair to say."

"To be fair to Randy (Lerner), the chairman will let me decide over on that side. You have to understand and respect his good work which he has done."

"That shouldn't be overlooked. Everything you see should never be overlooked but you have to respect he wants to do his own thing."

Lambert is trying to restore calm during Villa's chaotic time with the club

Good start pays off for The George

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1

The George v The Gre-ville, postponed.

South Staffs Premier Division

Hawkins/George (off)

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2

Broomfield 181

The George 220

The George led by nine shots after the first four, Bill Chiswell (21-2) & Dave Hill (21-12) both winning.

Despite only one winner in the middle four (Paul Rose 21-9) The George extended their lead to 13 shots.

The back four took the match away from Broomfield with Joe Arnott (21-4), Terry Williams (21-9) & Will Freeman (21-19) winning.

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First team pledge of 'grown up' Grealish

VILLA starlet Jack Grealish is targeting a first-team spot and insisted he has grown up.

The winger wants to challenge at Villa Park after his loan spell at Notts County gave him a taste for first-team football.

Grealish made his Villa debut as a late substitute in the 4-0 defeat at Manchester City earlier this month after helping the Magpies beat the League One drop.

And the Brummie-born ace, 18, who won the Shield with Villa in the Soccer Sevens in Hong Kong this week, wants to make a claret and blue impact next season.

"It's been a useful season for me getting to play first-team football and it's made me hungrier for more," said Grealish, who was joint top scorer in Hong Kong.

"I had to grow up a lot at Notts County and playing in the League One relegation battle is much different to playing academy football.

"I've said all along that all I can do is to perform to my best and keep working hard to improve and hope that I do enough to impress the manager. Villa is my club, I've been brought up with Villa in my blood."

He also wants to follow Callum Robinson's lead and make his home debut after being inspired by his team-mate's bow.

O'Neil gets a new deal

YOUNG Albion midfielder Liam O'Neil has signed a new contract tying him to the Baggies until 2016.

The 20-year-old academy product, who made his Premier League debut this season, has penned a one-year deal with a further year's option in the club's favour.

Albion director of football administration Richard Garlick said: "We are delighted to hand Liam a new deal."

"He made a significant leap forward during the second half of last season and showed great maturity."

"Yet again, credit must go to our academy staff for bringing him through the ranks successfully."

"The final few months of the campaign were an invaluable experience for Liam in his footballing education."

"The test for him now is to see if he can flourish in and around the first-team squad next season."

Jones quits Baggies for move to Black Cats

ALBION defender Billy Jones has signed for Sunderland on a four-year deal after turning down a final contract offer from the Baggies.

The former Crewe and Preston man was given a final take-it-or-leave-it offer last week to sign a three-year deal at The Hawthorns on improved wages.

But the Black Cats have handed the 27-year-old a longer deal and he has opted to move to Wearside.

Albion were reluctant to break the bank for Jones after a series of niggling injuries restricted his appearances in the last two

Football

years. He made just 21 starts last season.

Jones' decision means Albion must replace both of last season's senior right-backs after they released Steven Reid.

Shrewsbury-born Jones, who moved to The Hawthorns from Deepdale in 2011, said: "I'm really happy to be here (Sunderland) and I'm looking forward to getting back for pre-season and kicking on."

"I've played at the Stadium of Light a number of times so I know what it's about and what great backing the club has."

"I've come to the training ground and it's amazing. I knew I was signing for a massive club with everything in place to kick on up the league and carry on moving forward."

Albion opened talks with Jones over a new deal last October but had several offers rejected.

They became resigned to losing the popular full-back near the end of the season with newly-promoted Leicester also showing an interest.

Director of football development Richard Garlick said: "Following further talks with Billy's representative, we made our final

offer last week – a long-term deal on vastly-improved terms based on Billy's contribution over the past three years.

"Billy rejected this and has exercised his right to run down his contract with a view to joining Sunderland."

"We're obviously disappointed by Billy's decision but wish him well in his future career."

During his three seasons at The Hawthorns club, Jones made 70 starts and four substitute appearances, scoring once for the Midlands Premiership team.

Teenage sensation signed up

BIRMINGHAM have pulled off the shock signing of Polish sensation Bartosz Zmarzlik.

Zmarzlik, aged 19, has agreed a short-term deal to replace the injured Adam Skornicki who has returned to Poland for a second opinion on his hip damage.

The new rider was due to make his Selco Brummies debut against Belle Vue at Perry Barr but the match has been postponed. He burst onto the scene in 2012 as he claimed a rostrum spot as wildcard in the FIM Polish Grand Prix in Gorzow.

Delighted Selco Brummies owner Alan Phillips said: "He's not a big name but he's a young, hungry, exceptionally talented rider and he was always my number one choice."

"I've been after him for a few weeks now and I'm just delighted we've managed to finalise the deal."

"Obviously he'll initially be standing in for Adam which will give him a chance to grit his teeth in British racing."

"Hopefully we can see him get to grips with the Elite League fairly quickly and he can make a positive impact for us."

Blues nearer to a takeover

A TAKEOVER at Birmingham City appeared to be edging closer after it was confirmed an offer has been made to buy part of the club.

Blues parent company, Birmingham International Holdings, confirmed the offer to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. The firm will only sell a maximum of 24 per cent of its stake.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, May 29

STEP CLOSER TO BAGGING BOSS

ALBION are setting about the task of completing their seven-man shortlist for the Hawthorns head coach's job.

Malky Mackay became the latest man to fall behind in the race.

The Baggies have yet to contact the former Cardiff boss, meaning the 42-year-old looks unlikely to be involved in the final fight to succeed Pepe Mel.

And with Paul Clement, Chris Hughton, Neil Lennon and Dave Jones all ruled out already by the Hawthorns hierarchy, almost all of the leading bookmakers' fancies appear to be unlikely to land the role.

Neither ex-Tottenham boss Tim Sherwood nor former Manchester United chief David Moyes are thought to be among the front-runners despite being discussed, meaning Albion look set to turn to an outsider to lead them into next season.

Intrigue

And events on Tuesday at Southampton, where boss Mauricio Pochettino left for Tottenham, have added a fresh layer of intrigue with the Saints set to consider a similar set of candidates to the Baggies and potentially vie for the same leading contenders.

Former caretaker boss Keith Downing remains in the frame despite a potential backlash from some fans who want a higher-profile appointment.

The former Wolves midfielder is highly respected by players and fellow coaches, meaning he is certain to be considered seriously when new technical director Terry Burton and director of football administration

Football

Richard Garlick complete their shortlist to present to chairman Jeremy Peace.

Former Baggies captain Derek McInnes has support within the club after highly successful stints in Scotland with St Johnstone and Aberdeen.

Leeds boss Brian McDermott ticks several of the boxes required by the Baggies but his uneasy relationship with new Elland Road owner Massimo Cellino could make any exit from the Yorkshire club difficult with compensation an issue.

Meanwhile, former Albion defender Diego Lugano has emerged as a possible target for Brazilian club Sao Paulo, where he played earlier in his career.

Lugano was released by the Baggies at the end of the season after failing to impress in the Premier League.

Sao Paulo president Carlos Miguel Aidar said: "Maybe we will be able to get him."

"It will be hard because other clubs are interested, but he is worth a try."

"We are looking carefully and will see what happens after the World Cup."

Maximum success for hat-trick Cradley



Steve Worrall leads Luke Chessell in the match between Cradley Heathens and Kent. Picture – John Hipkiss photography

CRADLEY hit Kent with a hat-trick of maximums in their 65-27 National League demolition.

The result means they have gone past the 60-point barrier in three of their four league meetings so far and are bang on course for the play-offs in the defence of their league title.

Steve Worrall notched a full 18-point maximum with skipper Paul Starke on 13+2 and Max Clegg 14+1 both unbeaten by a visiting rider.

Fans and riders had arrived at Monmore in steady rain but Worrall was quick to praise the track staff for their efforts. He said: "It's ironic. I reckon the track turned out to be the best it has been this season."

"I'm obviously delighted to get the maximum and I owe Starkie one because he slowed down to let me through in the last race for the win."

"We've got a good team going here at Cradley and everyone is getting

on great because we are scoring well and winning meetings. Hopefully that will continue for the rest of the season."

Cradley: Steve Worrall 18, Max Clegg 14+1, Paul Starke 13+2, Nathan Greaves 8+3, Matt Williamson 8+1, Danny Phillips 4+1, Tom Perry R/R, Kent: Simon Lambert 7, Ben Morley 6, David Mason 6, Luke Chessell 4+2, Luke Harris 3, Danny Ayres 1+1, Benji Compton R/R

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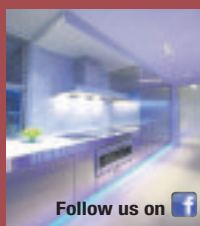
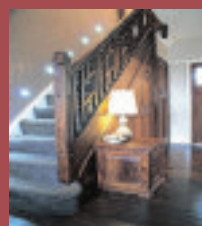
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